Travels in North America. By Whitman Mead, A. M. In three parts.

TRAVELS IN NORTH AMERICA.

BY WHITMAN MEAD, A. M.

IN THREE PARTS.

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“Travels in North America. By Whitman Mead, A. M. In three parts.”

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GILBERT LIVINGSTON THOMPSON, Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

INTRODUCTION.

A part of the matter contained in the following pages has been published before. It has now undergone a thorough revision, and been corrected by the maturer judgment of the Author; the greater part, however, has never been exhibited to the world. There are two reasons that have induced its publication. The one is, that it has afforded amusement and information to those who have had the perusal of the diary of the traveller; and the other, that the writer chose to make it public.

The intention of the writer is to convey amusement with instruction; to give, in a free and easy manner, the character and manners of the people he met with, and to blend descriptions of scenery, as they caught his eye, with a general idea of the country he visited. Speculation and conjecture are sometimes indulged in, but nothing is stated in the garb of truth without a conviction of its correctness.

Had the Author been ambitious of enlarging the size of the present volume, his journal would have afforded every opportunity; but, judging that others, like himself, have often, at the commencement of a heavy tome, felt all the 4 lassitude that is produced by the perusal of a moderate volume, merely from a dread of the labour before him, he is determined not to fatigue, though he may fail to please.

The principal writers on this country are foreigners—Men who come hither possessed of little information, and less candour. They are influenced, either by high expectations or strong prejudices. Of all the Europeans who emigrate to America, but a small proportion

of them ever become valuable members of society. Most of those who land on our shores, are either worthless before they embark, or quickly become so after their arrival. The sudden transition from a state of vassalage, to the enjoyment of almost unlimited liberty, appears to be too much for the mind of man to bear with either propriety or temperance. Licentiousness is mistaken for liberty, and a total disregard of law is presumed to constitute the essence of freedom.

Few Americans have made their own country the theatre of their travels. The Court of St. James, and the Mausoleums in Westminster Abbey—the Palace of the Thuilleries, and the Garden of Versailles—have become more familiar by description to the inhabitants of this country, than our own capital, or the cemetery of Washington; and whilst the American traveller is exploring the recesses of Herculaneum, beholding the eruptions of Etna, or climbing to the summits of the Alps, he has never beheld the cloud-capped Catskills, the Cataract of Niagara, or contemplated the remains of ancient fortifications in the west. The Villas of England, and the Chateaux of France, have often been 5 subjects of admiration to our citizens who have visited those countries, without any knowledge of their own; and the charms of our inland towns are suffered to display themselves unnoticed and unknown.

The United States present every variety of soil and climate, and the traveller who explores them, mingles with the greatest diversity of character. He becomes familiar with both savage and civilized life. The blessings of liberty, and the evils of slavery, are displayed before him. Without leaving this country, the character and manners of almost every civilized nation may be studied. The habits of the French, both before and since the revolution, are exhibited at one view; and in the heart of America, he may imagine himself to be in the middle of Germany.

The motives that induced the first settlement of this country, have had no small influence in giving diversity to the general character. The southern division of the United States, spreading from the shores of the Atlantic to the mountains on the west, and extending from the bay of the Chesapeake to the Gulf of Mexico, was originally settled by colonies led

hither by adventurers in pursuit of wealth. Its soil, climate, and productions, are equalled by few tracts of country, of the same extent, in the world. Its inhabitants, whose ancestors were poor, have become rich, and their hospitality is proverbial throughout the whole of the dominions of America.

Notwithstanding these favourable circumstances, the southern states have never been visited by any traveller who 6 has given to the world an account of the country whither he has been; and whilst thousands from the north pay their annual visits to the commercial towns of the south, to enrich themselves, few have returned to their native homes with any information of the places they have seen. The genius and character of the inhabitants have been unobserved, and the only account given of the south is, that its climate for six months in the year is delightful, and that its inhabitants abound with wealth, and are living at ease.

The northern division of the United States was peopled by those who came hither in quest of a country where they might worship their Maker agreeably to the dictates of their own minds; and while the Catholic of Maryland bowed to the sceptre and the cross, the followers of William Penn in silence worshipped the God of Heaven, and the Puritans of New-England raised their pæans in praise of the same Almighty Being.

The western part of the United States has been peopled, or is settling, by emigrants from the Atlantic states, or from Europe. The inhabitants are a mixed assemblage of active and enterprising men. They are hardy and daring, and in general intelligence they surpass, perhaps, any people in the world.

The Canadas are not devoid of interest. Upper Canada is sufficiently extensive to form a powerful state; and much of its soil and climate is excellent. Many parts of Lower Canada are thickly peopled, but the more northern parts of both provinces will be a perpetual forest.

There is no part of the world that presents such a variety of scenery as this continent. The extended plains and lofty mountains, the gentle acclivities and abrupt precipices, with which it is diversified, display a richness and grandeur of prospect that must rouse the feelings of the most inattentive observer; while the immense rivers, the broad bays, and the vast lakes that spread themselves through it, give a boldness and sublimity to the conceptions of the traveller. The rapid improvements that are every where making excite the utmost admiration:—forests falling before the settler—houses erecting in the wilderness—towns springing up in places where but a few years since the savage dwelt —and roads and canals projecting where white men never trod, form but a part of the stupendous objects that unfold themselves to the traveller in America.

TRAVELS IN NORTH AMERICA.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction—Voyage to Savannah—Savannah River—Savannah—Trade, Population, &c. —Slavery—Road to Augusta—Country Landlords—Jacksonborough—Amusements of the lower class of the People—Approach to Augusta.

To tell what has been narrated before, or to attempt to give interest to scenes that have been often described, is no enviable undertaking. This, however, must be the labour of all those who either now or hereafter delineate the incidents of a voyage.

I left the city of New-York on the 11th day of January, 1817. The ship in which I embarked was called the Cotton Plant, and commanded by Captain Fash. She was a good and staunch vessel, her cabin was comfortable, and the passengers as agreeable as the most of mankind. I was neither sea-sick nor terrified during the voyage, but, rocked by the billows, 2 10 I slept in my birth, or when awake, listened to the noise of the waves, or the creaking of the ship. Sometimes, in the cabin, I wrote, or read, or amused myself in some other way; at others, I walked the deck, contemplating, if it was calm, the smooth

bosom of the ocean, or if agitated by a tempest, admiring the heavings of the deep. I saw whales spouting the flood, and dolphins playing about the ship. The phosphorescence of the ocean attracted my attention, and the gulf stream sent up a humid cloud.

Storms were experienced, as is usually the case at this season of the year, and the passage occupied more than the ordinary time; but we were abundantly supplied with good things, and there was little room for complaint.

Fifteen days after sailing, we came in sight of Tybee light, glimmering faintly on the edge of the horizon. It was evening, and the king of day had yielded his dominion over this hemisphere to the queen of night. The moon had commenced her first quarter, and, elevated but a few degrees above the western hills, threw a placid light on the curling seas.

At the mouth of Savannah river there is a lighthouse. It is twenty miles from the town. The island on which it stands is called Tybee. Here is likewise Fort Jackson, which commands the entrance of the river.

The ship did not receive a pilot until after she had entered the river. He was one of the sable 11 sons of the south—a man in the decline of life. He had acquired the reputation of being the best pilot in the port. He was sober and industrious, and with strict attention eyed his way up the crooked stream.

The passage up the Savannah river was gloomy beyond description. The channel in some places is not more than thirty yards wide, and winds its way through deep morasses, the abodes of alligators and other loathsome reptiles. A long coarse grass is the only thing that grows upon this miry soil, excepting here and there, on a few sand hills, the dwarf pine tree raises its sallow head. Smokes were rising in every quarter, from fires created to destroy the grass of the last year's growth. A little farther on, the hovels of the negroes

checkered the scene. The poet's description of Hell might have been drawn from this original:

Regions of sorrow, doleful shades, —Where hope never comes, That comes to all.

At sunset our ship came to anchor about three miles below the town, at a place called Five Fathom Hole. The navigation of the river, for vessels of more than fourteen feet draught of water, terminates here. It is protected by Fort Wayne, on the left side of the river.

Savannah is built on a sand bank, elevated more than forty feet above the river. It is in lat. 32° 18# 12 north, and in 81° of west longitude. In the rear of the town is a level pine barren, and on either side are extensive marshes, which form rich rice plantations. Below the bank, and contiguous to the river, there is an extensive range of warehouses for the reception of the various commodities that are transported on the river. The town is laid out in squares; many of the streets are spacious, and ornamented, on either side, with rows of China trees. The private houses are built principally of wood; many of them are neat, and some elegant. There are a number of public edifices that do honour to the place. Among these, some of the churches, the exchange, the new theatre now erecting, the academy, and the court house, are worthy of the attention of a stranger. The exchange, on the centre of the bluff, in a commanding situation, is a heavy Gothic building, five stories high, with a cupola, from which the approach or departure of ships in the river may be seen.*

* Many of these edifices have, since the above was written, been reduced to a heap of ruins, by the memorable conflagration of that city, on the 11th of January, 1820.

The commerce of Savannah is very extensive. Nearly the whole of the imports and exports of Georgia, together with a part of those of South and North Carolina, pass through the hands of the merchants of this place. Cotton is the great commodity, and ships from the northern seaports regularly come hither every winter to procure cargoes for their European voyages. Indeed, the flags of 13 almost every commercial nation are displayed in this port, and the whole town exhibits one continued scene of extensive mercantile operations.

Boats are continually arriving, laden with the productions of the interior country. Vast quantities of foreign merchandize are put on board of them, and transported up the river. Every thing evinces the great importance of this place. The annual exports of cotton, rice, and tobacco, exceed 6,000,000 of dollars.

The population of Savannah is more than 7,000. The inhabitants are collected together from Europe and the northern states. They are agreeable and intelligent, but, as few of them intend to spend their days there, they form no local attachments.

To one not accustomed to such scenes as slavery presents, the condition of the slaves is inexpressibly shocking. In the course of my walks, I was every where a witness to their wretchedness. Like the brute creation of the north, they are driven about at the pleasure of all who meet them. Half naked and half starved, they drag out a pitiful existence, apparently almost unconscious of what they suffer. A threat accompanies every command, and a bastinado is the usual reward of disobedience. Along the wharves they are to be seen transporting the cargoes of ships to and from the warehouses. They accompany all their labour with a kind of monotonous song, at times breaking out into a yell, and then sinking 14 into the same nasal drawl. Nor does it seem easy to meliorate their condition. Every attempt toward this desirable end, meets with almost universal opposition. Not long since, an effort was made to give the blacks the benefit of Sunday school education; but the fear of a prosecution prevented the plan from being carried into effect. The negroes are considered a distinct species from the rest of the human race, and the treatment they receive is consonant with this opinion. Yet slaves may be met with here of every variation of colour—from the deep jet of the African to the fair complexion and straight hair of the European.

However repugnant to the mind of the speculative philanthropist slavery may appear, yet there are many arguments in favour of its continuance. If freemen were to perform much of the labour of hot climates, they would be degraded to the condition of slaves. Liberty would be to them only a name. It is a subject not unworthy of reflection, whether the true interests

of humanity do not, in preference to the emancipation of the blacks, require something to be done to ameliorate their present situation.

To commence instructing the negroes for the purpose of future emancipation, would be giving them knowledge to perceive their power, before they could understand the manner in which it should be exercised; and whilst slavery, as it now exists, is deplored, the consequences that a change would produce must be dreaded.

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On leaving Savannah for Augusta, the traveller finds little either of interest or amusement. The road passes through a dreary country, covered with pines, here and there interspersed with the bay tree, and some few other productions of the forest. Occasionally, a cottage, surrounded with some acres of cleared but barren land, attracts his attention. The houses of entertainment correspond with the general aspect of the country. The usual dishes placed on the table are bacon, poultry, and boiled corn. Coffee was generally placed before me; and I do not recollect of ever stopping at a house, in my whole journey, without being abundantly supplied with whiskey.

There is, however, much social enjoyment at these houses. The masters have little to do; and they entertain travellers from the double motive of getting their money, and enjoying their society. They are always affable and attentive, and ever ready to serve those who solicit entertainment; but they are too much accustomed to command, to brook the language of direction.

Jacksonborough is the most considerable town between Savannah and Augusta. It is the capital of Scriven county, and has a court house and jail, built principally of logs. A public amusement had delighted the inhabitants of this place only a few days before I passed through it, which still dwelt with fresh recollection on the minds of those who had participated in its fruition.

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He who wishes to become acquainted with the true state of any country, must study the character of those who are in the common walks of life. The rich and the great, who have been educated with care, who have mingled much with the world, and have had their manners improved, either by travelling, or associating with those who have visited other countries, can never furnish an example of national character. It can only be learned by associating with the common people, who assemble on public days, and on particular occasions, repeating the same round of little civilities or bickerings, and practising the same sports and enjoyments, that their fathers have done before them. Were I to study the morality of a nation, it would be by reading the history of its common amusements.

These remarks seem necessary, before I describe the holyday enjoyment of the lower class of people in this part of our country; for some of them are of a most singular and barbarous kind, at the head of which may be placed *Gander Pullings* and *Free Fights.*

A Gander Pulling, as described to me by one who appeared to have a high relish for this refined amusement, consists in suspending a goose on a pole, within the reach of a man on horseback. The neck of the goose is completely daubed with soft soap, or some other slippery substance. The sportsmen, mounted on their chargers, divide themselves into two parties, and each of these parties select what is called a 17 *rider.* From a suitable distance, alternately, one of them starts at full speed, with the whole of the opposite party in chase, who whip up his horse to prevent him from seizing the goose. In this manner, passing the suspended goose, the rider attempts to seize the neck and carry off the head as a prize. It often happens, that the rider misses his grasp, or if he is so fortunate as to lay hold of the object, it is only, to besmear himself with the lubricous matter with which the neck has been prepared. Thus a sufficient number of geese are butchered to make what they call a barbacue, which is done by the women, who are no less fond of a gander-pulling than the men.

After feasting on this delicacy, and regaling themselves on whiskey, the *free fight* commences. A ring is formed, free for any one to enter and fight. The usual mode of

challenging is, for the one who enters the ring to style himself *a horse* , and whoever accepts the challenge does it by replying, “I am an aligator;” or a more fashionable mode of doing this, since the introduction of steam boats, is for one to call himself a steam boat, and the other an earthquake. The challenge being given and accepted, the combat commences; after a few rounds, they generally clinch, throw down, bite, and gouge, and the conquered creeps out under the ring as a signal of his submission. I observed that the person, from whom I received the description of free fights and gander-pullings, had lost a part of his ear, beside having 3 18 one of his eyes considerably shifted in its socket. He, I imagined, must have crawled out under the ring.

These amusements are, however, becoming much less frequent than formerly, and more rational enjoyments are taking place. This change proceeds from the frequent visits of strangers, and the benevolent exertions of itinerant Methodist preachers. The introduction of schools for the lower class of whites is likewise doing much, and the intelligent and influential part of the inhabitants of Georgia are exerting themselves to improve the general state of society.

Fifty miles from Augusta the face of the country begins to vary. Here and there are undulations of the surface, and a little dark soil covers the sand. The growth of trees is larger, and small plantations vary the scene. From the Ocean to Augusta, a distance of more than one hundred and fifty miles, rocks have not been formed, nor stones scattered on the surface of the plain—a vast extent of sand, which, if it were placed in the interior of a continent, would have been a dreary desert.

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CHAPTER II.

Augusta—Trade—Warehouses—Character of the Planters—Sabbath—Snow—Increase of Wealth—Slave Camp—Mother and Child—Reflections—Climate—General View of Georgia.

Augusta is situated on the southwest side of Savannah river, one hundred and forty miles northwest of Savannah by land, and a much greater distance, following the course of the river. At this place there is a bridge across the Savannah, near six hundred yards in length.

The town is built upon a plain, a few miles below the commencement of the hill country; the principal streets run parallel with the river, and are intersected by others, crossing them at right angles. This place may be considered an immense factory, whither the merchants of the north, or their agents, resort, to transact business with the planters and traders of the interior of Georgia, and some of the adjacent states. The quantity of cotton and tobacco brought hither for sale is immense; the avails of which are, to a great extent, laid out in the purchase of various foreign commodities, either of luxury or use. The warehouses are, from their magnitude, 20 the greatest curiosities in the place. They are made by erecting wooden frames, and covering them, usually, with only a roof. The sides are left open, and waggons, drawn by four or six horses, are driven directly into them, for the purpose of being unladen.

The planters commence bringing their crops to market in November, and this occupies their attention until March. There were many of them in Augusta during my stay there, which was from the first to the sixth of February. They are a frank and ingenuous people, ardent in their feelings, and sanguine in their opinions. They are tenacious of their own manner of life, and regard mechanics and traders inferior to themselves. They are possessed of no little vanity, and withall are somewhat credulous. In their character there is much to admire, and something to condemn. The planters in the interior of Georgia treat their slaves with humanity; and many of them, like the farmers of the middle or eastern states, labour in their fields.

On the Sabbath, in the morning, I attended the Presbyterian church. The building was new, spacious, and neat. The clergyman was warmly engaged in the cause of religion. He discoursed upon the observance of the Sabbath, and pointed out some of the leading immoralities of his congregation; among, these he enumerated riding for pleasure, posting

books, and the like, on the Sabbath. His 21 delivery was easy and familiar, and his language copious.

In the afternoon I visited the Methodist Chapel. The preacher, as if by appointment, had chosen the text of the clergyman I had heard in the morning, and declaimed against the same violations of the Sabbath.

The weather for several days was colder than had been experienced for a number of years, and there was a fall of snow, three or four inches deep. Snow is seldom known in this climate, and when it occurs it generally melts in a few hours.

It was amusing in the streets to see the various sports which the snow afforded. Snow-balls were in the hands of every one; and it was not more than treating a person with civility to salute him with one as he passed. A Frenchman who kept a little shop, placed before his door a female figure made of snow, with the label, “Miss Winter.” I passed by her ladyship with a friend, who remarked, that he presumed Mr. Sun would soon make a conquest of Miss Winter. About noon I observed her quite overcome by his solar majesty.

To notice incidents like these, may be considered by some as detracting from the dignity of writing; but it should be recollected, that life does not consist of a series of distinguished events. Much of the happiness or misery experienced, is produced by trifling circumstances; and it is a just conclusion, 22 that what delights one mind would, under like circumstances, afford pleasure to another.

The population of this place is nearly three thousand. They are from the middle and eastern states, or natives of the old countries. The inhabitants are agreeable and industrious; but that anxiety to acquire wealth, which all adventurers possess, is too visible among them.

The southern parts of Georgia are settling with great rapidity; and the lands on the waters of the Oconee and Oakmulgee, are said to be remarkably fertile. Settlers were every day

passing through Augusta, moving to Alabama; and the spirit of adventure appeared to be entirely directed to that quarter.

The planters of the south are fast increasing in wealth; cotton, which will yield a profit at twelve cents, was bringing twenty-three. Hence, the attention of the people was turned toward planting; and this increased the demand for slaves. Large numbers of these wretches were every day introduced into Georgia, from North Carolina and Virginia. There was a camp on the opposite side of the river; a sale of ten had been effected, I was told, at six hundred and fifty dollars *per* head. A more abominable traffick than this in human flesh never existed; it cannot fail to strike the spectator with horror, till, after having long been a witness to this unmingled misery, he gradually feels less pity for the sufferers, and at 23 length becomes completely hardened, and unsusceptible of every compassionate emotion.

I visited this camp of human traffick and human abomination. To conciliate the favour, and win the attention of the keepers, I assumed the character of a person who wished to purchase slaves. At the sound of the crack of a whip, resembling that of a stage driver, the poor creatures came running from their stalls around their owners; at another flourish on the whip, they commenced jumping and frisking around us. The inhuman wretch, with all the accomplishments of either a horse-jockey or a villain, began to expatiate upon the various excellencies and beauties of those about us. “This,” said the fiend, “is the finest lot of negroes I ever drove to market. I purchased them in Maryland and Virginia—nearly the whole of them are young, active, and healthy.” At this moment, a child, who could hardly speak, addressed me—“Master, will you please to buy me and my mammy, that we may have a home.” I looked around, and saw a miserable woman lying upon the ground. At her breast was an infant not three days old. It had been born on the ground where it then lay. “This is my mammy,” said the boy, with tears starting from his eyes. I turned away in silence and astonishment from the sight. Had this child been left a foundling at the door of some benevolent person, it would have been educated without any suspicion of its mother having been a slave. 24 Her story was as follows, if credit can be placed in the

statement of her then master. She had belonged to an estate in Virginia, which was sold in consequence of the death of the proprietor. She had been the favourite and faithful slave of her master. At his demise, the estate went into the hands of a brother, who, to obliterate a disgrace to his family, sold her to a slave trader to be transported to Georgia.

The exportation of slaves from the northern slave states, to those farther south, since the abolition of the slave trade, has been extensive. Since the peace, it has been a very lucrative business. Wealth is power, and this is the height of human ambition—the respect paid to wealth, courage, or powerful mental endowments, is nearly the same. He who wishes to become acquainted with the subject of slavery, should devest himself of every prejudice. From its very nature, it awakens some of the tenderest sympathies of the human mind. Its evils are deprecated alike by the advocates of universal emancipation, and by those who argue the necessity of its continuance. To change the habits of a people, or to make freemen of slaves, would be, indeed, no very easy undertaking. Masters and their slaves have often been playmates in their childhood. Those who have associated together in infancy, are not likely to become oppressors of each other in riper years. The native slave loves his master, and the native master 25 feels a sympathy for his servant; and wherever I have seen brutal masters at the south, they were generally natives of Europe, who had come thither in pursuit of riches, and who, in many instances, have had the luck to become the successful suitors of rich heiresses.

The laws of the United States prohibit the traffic in human beings from foreign countries. The laws of many of the slave states prohibit the introduction of slaves from other states, yet both of these are disregarded; and however unpleasant it may be, to make reflections on the general character of any section of the country, still the southern states are guilty of practices, and exhibit scenes, over which I would wish to spread the mantle of oblivion; but the sight of a slave camp, unsheltered from the chilling snow, and of a child begging me to become the master of its feeble mother and her infant child, has made an impression on my mind too deep to be ever effaced. The subjection of the blacks to the whites of the south, may be justifiable; but to drive negroes from one part of the Union to another—to

tear asunder families—to break in upon the tenderest sympathies of our nature, for mere money-making purposes, are crimes that deserve the severest reprehension.

The state of Georgia was settled by General Oglethorpe, who received a grant of land from the British Crown. The first colonists were Scotch and Germans. They landed at Yamacraw bluff, the present 4 26 scite of Savannah, in 1736. Its population, at this time, is not far from three hundred thousand.

Georgia, although the youngest of the thirteen states that achieved the independence of America, is now one of the first in the Union. Her yearly exports at the present time will amount to eight millions of dollars; and the rapid improvements that are making in agriculture, will continue to increase this amount. The climate in the interior of Georgia, is said to be peculiarly fine—perhaps the best in the United States. This part of the state is broken into ridges and cliffs. Hill countries are for the most part healthy. They never feel the same inconvenience from a vertical sun, that is experienced in low or level places. Winter is more a thing of name than of reality in Georgia. Cattle procure their own means of subsistence through every season of the year. The heat of summer is not peculiarly oppressive, nor is the earth in spring or autumn inundated with floods. Bacon is the most common flesh eaten in this part of the country. Beef may be made very fine, and poultry is always to be had in the greatest abundance. A variety of vegetables might be cultivated nine months in the year. Figs are easily produced; and peaches grow of the richest flavour. Melons grow in profusion; and the olive might be reared in this happy clime. The south part of the state abounds with sugar-cane; and the orange tree flourishes on the islands contiguous to 27 the ocean. Living is, nevertheless, for the most part, but indifferent. The white people are too indolent to prepare the many little delicacies which contribute much toward good living, and the blacks are too ignorant to do it for them. Puddings and pies, and cakes and tarts, I found rather uncommon in Georgia.

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CHAPTER III.

Leaving Augusta—Forest—Evening Music and Dance—Storm—Getting Wood—Planter—Woman from Connecticut—Landlady and Daughter—Approach to Charleston—Charleston—Commerce—City Library—Prison—Hospital—Asylum for Lunatics—Orphan Asylum—Theatre—Society—General appearance of the place.

I left Augusta on the seventeenth day of February, 1817, for Charleston. Three miles from the town I crossed the Savannah. At this place there was no bridge, but a ferry-boat conveyed me with safety across the river. The road lay through a wilderness of pine trees. He who travels without a companion, feels the want of society. Solitude may be well calculated for study or reflection, but to a traveller company is always agreeable. A level country can never present a great variety of objects; and those which are presented to our attention, have their interest destroyed by frequent repetition. In passing through extended woods, the diversified forms that the different species of trees usually present, afford subjects for contemplation to the philosophic mind. The interest thus produced, is either increased or 29 diminished, as the variety of objects that display themselves become more or less numerous. Those who have been in pine forests, know how little variety they afford; and for those who have never seen them, it is sufficient to remark, that they are woods where the tall and slender pine is thinly scattered over the ground—where underbrush does not grow—where the huntsman on horseback pursues his game, and where the wild deer and wolf flee from the hounds, without any danger of being caught in a thicket, or entangled by thorns.

At sunset I arrived at the only house where I could have procured lodgings for many miles. The gentleman was not at home. His wife, two daughters, and their brother, treated me with much civility. They had neither candles nor a lamp in the house, but some dry pieces of pine set on fire supplied their place. These they called *light-wood* ; and the mother, who was sewing, often said to one of the girls, “Polly, put on a little more light-wood.”

In the evening, a black fiddler amused us for awhile, and I danced four reels in company with the girls and their brother.

The country people of Georgia and Carolina are alike fond of the violin and the dance. The climate is mild, their wants few, and they have little anxiety to make provision for the future. Few people can enjoy life unless their minds are in some manner employed; and music fills up the vacancies of time.

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Early the next morning I resumed my journey, and at eight o'clock I reached the next stopping-place, distant sixteen miles, and here breakfasted. After riding four or five miles farther, the country became more populous, although the soil looked equally barren. Toward noon it commenced raining. I rode about two hours in the storm, and then took shelter at the house of a planter. He was a native of Ireland, and a bachelor. He had lost the politeness and suavity of manners that characterize the gentry of his mother country, and had not acquired the frankness or liberality of those of his adopted one. It was raining tremendously, and it was some miles to a tavern. I asked for shelter from the storm. He eyed me with cold indifference, and then said I might stay. He lived retired from society —a paltry tyrant of twenty slaves. Single persons who are advanced in life, are for the most part selfish. Their thoughts center entirely upon themselves; and having no one else to provide for, they forget that much of the happiness of this life consists in doing good to others. If old bachelors wish to lose the character of being peevish and unhappy, they should be liberal to those around them. What others do for their families, they should do for the world.

I thought I had before witnessed the miserable condition of the slaves, but the treatment I now saw these subjected to, exceeded the worst I had imagined. The rain was falling in torrents, accompanied 31 with sleet. The first black I saw was a well made fellow, between twenty and thirty years of age, without a hat, or any covering except a blanket. I met him at some distance from the house, loaded with wood for his master's fire, which I observed

was cut at least a quarter of a mile from the house; eight or ten others followed him, each carrying a load. When I spoke to them, it was with difficulty I obtained an answer. They seemed like stupid insensible beings, devoid of understanding. The hard hand of oppression had so debased their minds, that reason was almost extinct. If the character of the blacks were to be estimated from this specimen, they would at once be pronounced a race of beings not to be classed with mankind. A waggon and horses belonged to the plantation, with the assistance of which a single man might have procured twice the quantity of fuel in the same time. Why, then, this wanton cruelty? why such misapplication of labour?

Few exertions are made to abridge humau labour in the slave states. The hoe is used where the plough might be introduced, and teams of slaves perform that which might be better accomplished by the help of brutes. I have seen in Carolina, negroes hoing up a field that it might be planted with corn; and I have seen in Kentucky, blacks conveying by hand sheaves of grain from the field to the barn. The plough and the cart are seldom used. The ox 32 feeds at his crib, and the horse stands in the stall, whilst the slave is employed in gathering food for their subsistence.

Twelve miles ride through a gloomy country, the next morning, brought me to breakfast. The lady of the house was a native of Connecticut, and though forty years had elapsed since she left the place of her nativity, yet she dwelt upon the recollection of it with delight; her countenance enlivened at my mentioning many things that had happened since her absence. It was more than twenty years since she had heard from home. Her children stared at me with a look that bespoke how much they wished to know something of the country of their forefathers. I answered all their inquiries with a freedom that won their esteem, and to prove their sincerity, the best fare their cottage afforded was placed before me.

After travelling twelve miles I reached the Edisto, and by one in the afternoon was on its opposite bank. After partaking of some refreshments of whiskey and cold bacon, I resumed my journey.

A road leading through swamps and sands, with deep ruts cut by the heavy waggons which carry the produce of the interior to Charleston, was the miserable path I had to travel. At sunset I reached Mrs. C's., twelve miles from the Edisto, and twenty-five from the town.

33

Mrs. C. and her daughter, a girl of eighteen, conducted the affairs of a tavern with more skill than I had witnessed at any other public house in the south. The daughter did the honours of the supper table, and in the true style of a southern lady, called Ben, to tell Joe to call Jin, to tell Peg to come and hand her the coffee pot, that stood on the hearth near her side.

The last twenty-five miles of my ride was agreeable, through rich plantations situated on the banks of Ashley river. There were fine houses within sight of the road, with deep avenues leading to them, bordered on each side with live oak, and other delightful shades. The live oak is the most magnificent tree of the forest. It spreads its majestic branches far and wide, and its rich foliage, which is always green, throws a deep shade around the trunk, while it sustains unmoved the weight of the massive limbs that decorate its towering head.

My approach to Charleston was indicated by the numerous persons whom I passed. Carriages with their attendants—sportsmen with their dogs and guns—gentlemen on horseback—together with waggons laden with produce, and market carts going to or from the town, evinced that I was in the environs of a city, ere I came in sight of its lofty domes. The race-ground of Charleston is within the suburbs of the city. Horse-racing is a favourite amusement in the southern states; and there is much attention 5 34 paid to the

propagation of horses of beauty and speed. The rules and regulations of the *course* are laid down with much strictness and precision. The Charleston races are always attended by the fashionables of both sexes. Near the city I passed a breastwork and ditch that was made during the late war, to protect the place in case of an attack from the enemy.

The city of Charleston is situated on a peninsula formed by Cooper and Ashley rivers, which unite immediately below the town, and form a beautiful and capacious bay. These rivers are navigable for small vessels a considerable distance. Where they unite, they are very broad, and have sufficient depth for ships of the largest class. Their margins are lined with marshes, which produce abundance of rice. The city is nine miles from the ocean. The view of the harbour, and of the distant islands that protect it from the sea, when seen from the spires of the churches, is delighted. These islands, during the sickly and hot seasons, are places of great resort. They are surrounded on all sides by the waters of the sea, being mere mounds of sand hove up by the ocean, without marshes or miasm—places where the air is always pure, and where pestilence is not wont to rage.

Charleston is nearly a mile and a half in length, and about one mile in width. Streets cross the town in an east and west direction, which are intersected by others at nearly right angles. The principal are 35 King and Broad Streets. They are generally too narrow for so warm a climate. It contains many elegant public and private edifices; and there is a general appearance of comfort and enjoyment throughout the whole city.

There are more than thirty thousand inhabitants in this place, and it is the fifth city in the Union in point of population and commerce. Its annual exports at this time will equal ten millions of dollars, and the tonnage that is owned there varies little from forty thousand. The State House and Exchange are spacious buildings, as are likewise many of the Churches; that of St. Michaels is said to have the handsomest steeple in the United States.

The market of Charleston is well supplied with every variety of meats and vegetables. The inhabitants, who are from the northern states, speak in superlative terms of the superior excellence of their peaches, and say, to use their own language, “could we but have the rich milk of the north to put with them, it would be delicious.”

The Court of Common Pleas was in session, and this gave me an opportunity of seeing something of the practice of the law in South Carolina. The process of the English courts is adopted here. The judges and gentlemen of the bar appear dressed in their gowns, with all the gravity of the sixteenth century.

The laws, as well as the practice, of the southern 36 states, are to a great extent copied from the English; and, whilst writers are declaiming against the corruption of the British legislature, and the cruelty of their criminal code, they forget that many of the same laws are adopted here, and some of the same corruptions practised.

In company with two of my former companions, I visited the City Library. It consists of several thousand volumes of the most celebrated authors, ancient and modern, judiciously selected, and handsomely arranged. There is a *fac simile* of the celebrated statue of Apollo Belvidere, taken in sulphate of lime. The ceilings of the room are ornamented with a number of prints and paintings of the greatest artists. The prints of the leading characters of Shakspeare are executed in a masterly style.

The public institutions of Charleston do honour to the city. The Debtors' Prison and Criminals' Jail are both under the same roof, though different apartments are allotted to each. A number of persons were confined for capital crimes, upon some of whom sentence of death had already been pronounced.

The Penitentiary appears to be intended chiefly for the confinement of refractory slaves. A huge frame is erected in one of the apartments, and by means of ropes and pullies, the

disobedient are extended on this machine, where they are scourged by the keepers, who possess the humanity of Turks.

The Hospital, and the Asylum for Lunatics, are 37 suitable and comfortable buildings. I was permitted to visit the apartments, and witness the miserable condition of those who are afflicted with that greatest of human calamities, the loss of reason. Strangers are seldom admitted into well regulated institutions of this kind, and perhaps there are sufficient reasons for this restriction.

The first person I saw was a man upwards of sixty, who had long been a resident of his lonely cell. He had not suffered his hair to be cut for many years, and for the want of combing, it had become so entangled as to resemble a mat. He conversed freely, and in mild terms remonstrated against the cruelty of those who confined him there. The second I came to was raving with all the fury of madness. He clenched the grates of his cell, and attempted to burst them asunder, vociferating loudly, and calling down curses on all he saw.

From this scene of human misery, with a mind dejected by reflecting on what these miserable mortals now suffered, when compared with their former situation, I retired to visit another institution of equal benevolence, but so different in kind, that I felt myself as it were removed from a world of wo into a region of bliss. The Orphan Asylum of Charleston is its greatest ornament. It is situated in the upper part of the town, and from its cupola presents a fine view of the city, harbour, and surrounding country. The building is spacious enough to contain three hundred 38 children, who are fed, clothed, and instructed, till they arrive at a sufficient age to earn their living. They are, as the name of the institution imports, children deprived of their natural parents and protectors; and were it not for the humanity of the people of Charleston, they would be left to perish with hunger in their infancy, or to grow up in those habits which lead to destruction. This institution is under the superintendance of twelve directors, and the same number of directresses, who are selected from the most respectable inhabitants of the city. The emotions that I experienced

in passing through it, will never be obliterated from my recollection. At the entrance of the yard, I was met by a boy, who, with politeness and modesty, offered to conduct me to the room of the principal preceptor. The children were at play. As I passed them, they saluted me with a respectful bow. The boy conducted me to the room of his teacher. He knocked at the door of his apartment, then opening it, said, a strange gentleman wishes to visit our school. The preceptor received me with the utmost cordiality, and conversed for some time respecting the objects of the institution. He then directed two of the boys to conduct me through every apartment, and to give me all the information that might be required. I passed through the apartments where the boys were at school—I admired them for their order, their regularity, and their animated and cheerful countenances. The boys next conducted 39 me to the apartments of the girls. They had been dismissed from school for the purpose of recreation, but in the place of romping, they were in a large room learning to spin. I was then shown the chapel, where evening and morning prayers are said, and where, at the return of every Sabbath, divine instruction is given, and divine blessings implored, for these lovely orphans.

I have visited public institutions in every part of our country; I have been pleased with the order and regularity of many of them, but the Orphan Asylum of Charleston stands pre-eminent.

The interior of the Theatre is very handsomely fitted up. The ceilings and walls are painted with elegance and taste. Some of the best actors in this country are attached to it. It is for the most part well attended, by a gay and fashionable assemblage of beauty and elegance.

Charleston is a delightful place; perhaps a man of wealth could not select a more agreeable residence, for nine months in the year, in America. Its society is interesting indeed. The inhabitants are well educated, polite, and easy in their manners. They are warm and ardent in their attachments—liberal of what they possess—and take pleasure in showing kindness to strangers, and many resort thither during the winter months, either

for health, pleasure, or profit. The climate is subject to frequent changes, and invalids who wish the benefit of warm climates to 40 improve their health, should select some place farther south.

This city suffers less from the yellow fever, in proportion to its size and population, than any seaport town south of the Chesapeake. Indeed, the general health that has so uniformly prevailed here during the summer months, for a few years past, has led to the belief, that people from the north may reside here with but little danger from the change of climate. The unusually cold summers that have occurred for the last few years, is the probable cause of this city being so healthy; nevertheless, many have fallen victims to the yellow fever; and it cannot be considered prudent for persons who are natives of New-England, to reside here through the whole of the year. He who visits Charleston once, must wish to see it again.

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CHAPTER IV.

Leaving Charleston—Stage Ride—Companions—Remarks of a Fellow Traveller—Georgetown Valuable Plantations—Rivers—Internal Improvement—Houses—Cleaning Cotton—Alligators—Population, &c.

I changed my mode of travelling on leaving Charleston, by disposing of my gig, and taking stage for Georgetown. There are some conveniences in having the means of conveyance at one's own command, which cannot be enjoyed in public stages; I was, however, willing to relinquish these advantages, to rid myself of a lonely and disagreeable ride, which I should otherwise have had to experience.

On the eighteenth of February I left Charleston, and stepped into a boat to cross Cooper's river to the place where the stage receives such passengers as are desirous to be conveyed toward Georgetown. I left the place with feelings of regret. I had some acquaintances in Charleston before I visited it, and formed many more during my stay.

Whilst I was there, the weather was peculiarly fine. In the middle of the day, I sat with my windows open, and 6 42 in the evening placed myself by the fire. For the most part of the time I dined with my friends, where good wine and good cheer made life happy. Some of them had been my companions at school, and we dwelt upon the recollection of scenes that were past. Others were associated with me from motives of reciprocal interest or feeling, and each conspired to make the other happy. Some of the ladies of Charleston are pretty. Most of them sing, and many play upon instruments of music; and he who visits Charleston, and departs from it without leaving behind him his best wishes for the place, must be possessed of but little good nature.

There were three persons in the stage beside myself. Two of them, a lady and her brother, were going only a few miles; the other, a young gentleman, whose father lived in the vicinity of Georgetown. They were acquainted with each other, and the brother relinquished his seat by the side of his sister to his friend, and placed himself forward by the driver; I took the middle seat, and matters being thus arranged, we commenced our ride. My fellow passengers in the back part of the stage, were busily engaged in conversation, sometimes inquiring after absent friends, and at others speaking of the pleasure they had enjoyed at a ball or the theatre, or occasionally mentioning some marriage that was expected soon to take place. Whenever this latter subject was introduced, I either imagined, or there actually 43 was, a change in their tone of voice and their manner of speaking. In the meanwhile, the brother was busily engaged in making inquiries of the driver respecting the age and character of the different horses in the team, or in giving the history of a favourite one of his own. He likewise expatiated largely upon the excellence of a particular hound that belonged in his family. This dog he represented to be the sharpest scented and the swiftest runner of any hound in the whole district. In this way we went on the first thirty miles, where we arrived at the place at which the lady and her brother wished to leave the stage. They did not reside immediately upon the road, but stopped at the house of an acquaintance, where they expected a carriage to convey them to the plantation where their father dwelt. The gentleman who had occupied the

seat by the lady during the ride, handed her out of the carriage, and conducted her to the gate leading to the house whither she was going. Her brother, wishing me a pleasant ride, took his leave. My fellow-traveller, after a moment's conversation with the lady, returned and took his seat in the stage. I found him an agreeable and intelligent gentleman, who had received his education at one of the most respectable Colleges in our country. He usually resided in Charleston, but was now going to visit his father, who owned a rich plantation in the vicinity of Georgetown. He had travelled extensively, in different 44 parts of the United States, and had stored his mind with much valuable information respecting our country. The local manners and habits of many parts of it, he had made his principal study; and with spirit and elegance delineated them as follows: “The English language is spoken with more purity in New-England than in any other part of America. That section of our country has few inhabitants who are not descended from English ancestors; and the general diffusion of learning throughout the whole community, makes their diction easy, and their language pure. Mothers are there the nurses of their infants, and convey to them the first notion of the use of words. Children who are left to the care of servants, learn of them phrases that no after-education can obliterate from their minds, and which they use without knowing it themselves. The many natives of Ireland, Germany, and France, who reside in the middle states, mingle the sounds of their own languages with the English, and their articulations are imperceptibly interwoven with the utterance of those around them. In the south, the corruption of language proceeds in a great measure from associating with servants in early life. Blacks are often nurses, and until children arrive at the age of five or six years, they perform for them many of the duties that belong to parents. There are many resemblances in the characters of the worthy farmers of the north and the respectable planters of the south. 45 They are alike sociable, independent, and happy, and each think their own situation preferable to any in the world. In proportion to their means, the hospitality of the one is not surpassed by that of the other. We here, at the south, have few strangers come among us, and, therefore, pay much attention to those who visit us; but it is quite different at the north, where strangers are often seen. The hospitality that we give

to one, is there divided among many. Few vagrant beggars come amongst us, and the inhabitants of the north are the principal providers for the wandering poor.

“The inhabitants of the southern states, form their opinion of the people of the north, from the pedlars that come amongst them; whilst the people of the north derive their idea of the character of the citizens of the south, from the few dashing fops who once in their lives parade through their country. We only want a more intimate connection to exist between the different parts of the Union, to show that we, in many respects, resemble each other —that we are alike patriotic—and that love of country does not belong to any particular section. In every part of our country, as is the case in other nations, there are some rich and many poor. Joy and grief, health and disease, are not peculiar to any part of the globe. There is no cause for local divisions or sectional prejudices.” He then repeated 46 the following part of the farewell address of Washington.

“The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess, are the work of joint councils, and joint efforts—of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

“The *north* , in an unrestrained intercourse with the south, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds in the productions of the latter, great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise, and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The *south* , in the same intercourse, benefiting by the agency of the *north* , sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the *north* , it finds its particular navigation invigorated—and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength, to which itself is unequally adapted. The *east* , in like intercourse with the *west* , already finds, and in the progressive

improvement of interior communications, by land and water, will more and more 47 find, a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad, or manufactures at home. The *west* derives from the *east* supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is, perhaps, of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indespensable outlets for its own productions, to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one nation."

My companion had studied agriculture with attention, and was acquainted with the products of every section of America. He conversed with perfect ease on gardening or farming, and spoke with the same familiarity of the best modes of cultivating the vine, or propagating the silk worm. The preparing of raw silk for exportation was a favourite topic of conversation both to him and myself; a subject to which my mind was particularly turned, during my visit to the country lying west of the Ohio.

Georgetown is situated near a bay of the same name, and is distant sixty miles from Charleston. It is one of the oldest towns in South Carolina, and contains upwards of two thousand inhabitants, more than one half of which are negroes. A number of streams and rivers empty into Winyaw and Georgetown bays, the principal of which are Pedee, Black, and Waccomaw rivers. The lands bordering 48 upon, these streams, and contiguous to the bay, are very productive, and compose the plantations of some of the richest men in the state. The incomes of many of the southern planters are very large, some of them exceeding one hundred thousand dollars a year; yet they are often embarrassed in their money affairs, and legal measures are frequently instituted against them to compel the payment of the debts they owe. He alone is rich who lives within his means.

Eighteen miles from Georgetown, I crossed the Black river, and thirty more brought me to the banks of the Pedee.* This river is one of the

* The following extract of a letter from a friend, contains much valuable information on the interior of South Carolina, and of the improvements that are now making.

“Chatham is pleasantly situated in Chesterfield District, (S. C.) on a rising ground on the west side of the Pedee River, about 100 miles N. by W. from Georgetown, and 225 miles from that place by the river, which has many windings; it is 150 miles N. by E. from Charleston, and 70 miles S. W. by W. from Fayetteville. Chatham is situated in the centre of a highly cultivated and very productive country. Cotton is extensively cultivated in its vicinity—25,000 bales are made annually in Chesterfield and Marlborough Districts, which lie east of the Pedee River, Darlington District, which lies south of Chesterfield, and Anson County, (N. C.) which joins Chesterfield on the north; these, places are all within a circle of 35 miles from Chatham, which lies at the head of Steam-boat navigation, there being a considerable rapid in the river a short distance above. There are twenty-five stores and dwelling houses in this village, and a number more are building at this time. There is also a large warehouse for the storage of cotton and tobacco. The public buildings are, an episcopal church and a library, containing a choice collection of some hundred volumes; a large three-story brick academy is now building. The streets are regular, crossing at right angles, and are all 100 feet wide. It is considered by the inhabitants one of the healthiest places in this part of the country. The opening of the navigation of Pedee is a circumstance that bids fair to make Chatham a place of very extensive trade. The Legislature of South Carolina some time since appropriated one million of dollars to internal improvements.

“The Pedee is one of the largest and most important rivers in the state; there has been already considerable done to open its navigation, and much more will be done on this as well as the other rivers in the state, the present season. The steam-boat Pedee has been plying on this river, from Chatham to Georgetown, with success, having made ten voyages, or twenty trips, up and down, between the middle of February and the middle of May. She has three tow-boats, each of which carry 450 bales of cotton down, and 2,500 bushels of salt up. She makes a trip up in forty-five hours, down in twenty-five hours, and

takes but one tow-boat at a time. Chatham has 150 inhabitants, consisting of merchants, planters, and mechanics. Nine miles north from this is the North Carolina line; just above which is Sneedsborough, a pleasant village, containing a dozen houses; 15 miles N. W. of this is Wadesborough, the county town of Anson. The Pedee is a large river, more than 100 miles above Chatham, and is called the Yadkin; above the Narrows, which are 40 miles above the North Carolina line, the country on its borders is the richest of any part of North Carolina. The Yadkin Navigation Company are now improving the river from Salisbury, (N. C.) to the South Carolina line; when these improvements are completed, small boats will run from Salisbury to Chatham, and, eventually, the produce of a large extent of country bordering on the Yadkin and Pedee, will be sent by water to Chatham for a market, or to be shipped to Georgetown and Charleston. The produce of this section of the country, has heretofore been transported by land either to Charleston, Richmond, Petersburgh, or Fayetteville, for a market. It is confidently believed, that the navigation of the Yadkin and Pedee, above Chatham, will be made good for small-mail boats in a short period; this event will open the resources of a large extent of the best part of North Carolina, much of which has heretofore been uncultivated in consequence of its great distance from a market.

“There has heretofore been a great want of enterprise and liberality on the part of North Carolina, in regard to opening the navigation of their rivers; they have, however, lately began to open their eyes on this subject, and their legislature at the ast session appropriated a large tract of land acquired of the Cherokee Indians, to internal improvements; these lands are valued at half a million of dollars, and it is believed the work of internal improvement will be prosecuted with vigour in North Carolina hereafter. The country on the Pedee is somewhat broken; in many places it is hilly, and resembles New-England when it is well cultivated. The productions of the upper country are cotton, tobacco, wheat, corn, oats, flax-seed, and bacon; all these are now exported to considerable extent, and the cultivation of them is increasing; in the vicinity of Chatham cotton and corn are the great staples. The banks of the Pedee are about twenty feet high,

and are lined with stately oaks and elms; the river here presents a fine view, two miles in extent, and is a handsome sheet of water 200 yards wide and 50 feet deep, opposite the town. The planters in the neighbourhood of this place make from 50 to 400 bales of cotton each, annually. Many of them are wealthy, have large commodious houses well furnished, and live genteelly. It is believed that Chatham will in a few years be a second Augusta, in point of trade; its situation is certainly very advantageous. It only wants more merchants and capital to make it one of the most important inland towns in the southern states.

“Perhaps you may be not a little pleased by the following anecdote, as it is a fact. A few years since a northern travelling merchant, or as they are called in Carolina, a Yankee pedlar, was overtaken by a shower near a wealthy planter's house, in the neighbourhood of Chatham; rather than proceed in the storm, he thought he would stop at the planter's house—by the way, the planter was quite an eccentric character. The pedlar knocked at the door, which was soon opened by a sturdy negro by the name of Bob, who conducted the pedlar to his master, who wished to know what he wanted. The pedlar was somewhat agitated when he found himself in a splendid room, and in company of persons who appeared so much his superiors. He however promptly asked the master of the house if he would keep him that night; he instantly replied, yes, and told Bob to put the fellow into the hen coop. Bob's strength and abilities being fully competent to the task, he speedily executed his master's orders without difficulty. The pedlar's horse was taken good care of, and his waggon put under the coach-house. In the morning the master went to the hen coop, and asked the pedlar how he liked his lodgings—the reply was, indifferently. He then asked him if he could say cow; the reply was in the affirmative. The master then requested him to say cow. Pedlar—kew. Master—that's not right, try again. Pedlar—kcow. Master—that wont do, try once more. Pedlar—kow. Master—that's not quite right; try once more, and I will let you out. Pedlar—cow. Master—that's brave and well said—Bob, take the man out, scour him up, and bring him into the parlour to breakfast. This order was quickly executed by Bob. The planter took the pedlar into his house, and treated him with every

possible kindness and hospitality, and would not let him depart until he had entertained him several days."

49 largest in South Carolina, and might with little expense be made navigable for a considerable distance. 7 50 The improving of the navigation of the various rivers of South Carolina is beginning to attract 51 attention. Little has hitherto been done in the southern section of the Union to Pacilitate intercourse 52 between different parts of the country. Indeed, unless there is a complete change of character in the people of the south, their indolence will keep them a century behind their brethren of the north. The introduction of steam-boats has given to places, which have hitherto been considered beyond the reach of commerce, nearly the same advantages that are enjoyed by cities contiguous to the ocean. If there is any name which will be handed down to posterity, that will brighten through the lapse of time, it is the name of Fulton.

After I had crossed the Pedee, the face of the country began to vary, and the soil to improve in quality. Cultivation was more extensive, and the houses of the planters were built with more taste. There has been little attention paid to architecture in the southern states. The houses in the country are 53 for the most part ill proportioned, although the number of log-huts for the slaves that are placed contiguous to the mansion of every planter, give a degree of consequence to his dwelling, that it would not otherwise possess. The houses are usually slight frames covered with boards on the outside, and their windows without glass, defended by wooden shutters, which are closed whenever it may be necessary to protect the internal part of the dwelling from a storm. The interior of the houses are seldom ceiled, and the partitions that divide the different apartments are loosely joined together. Some of them are ornamented with paint, but by far the greater part want this addition. I have seen some houses, with handsome shrubbery around them, but these are beauties that seldom occur. Barns would be of little use at the south, but a building for cleaning and packing cotton is the necessary appendage of every large plantation.

There is no one invention in the present age, (if we except that of steam-boats,) that will compare with the machine made by Mr. Whitney, for the purpose of cleaning cotton of its seeds. Previous to this invention, upland cotton, which is now one of the greatest sources of wealth to this country, was not worth cultivating. This machine is very simple in its construction, and will clean from three to four hundred pounds of cotton in a day.

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Just before I crossed the boundary line of North and South Carolina, the road passed through a swamp, in which a melancholy accident happened the last summer. A woman on horseback, in company with her husband and brother, was attacked by an alligator. The horse sprang and threw the woman from him, and before any assistance could be afforded her by her companions, the reptile had so mutilated her, that she expired in a few hours. Alligators are said to be rapidly increasing in numbers; and from the havoc they make among the hogs, and other animals that frequent marshes, I am surprised that a bounty is not offered for their destruction, which might be easily effected in the spring, when they first make their appearance. Alligators, like many other amphibious animals, imbed themselves in mud at the approach of winter, where they remain in a torpid condition until the return of spring. When the warm weather commences, they crawl out upon the banks, and are resuscitated by the rays of the sun; at this time they would fall easy victims to any one who might seek their destruction.

The population of South Carolina is not less than half a million. The first settlement was commenced at Port Royal by Governor Sayle, in 1670, and Lock's famous plan of government was attempted to be put in practice; but that, like many other speculative plans, was found to be better suited for theory than practice, and was soon rejected.

55

In the southern states, the forms of government are more aristocratic than in the northern part of the Union. The first magistrates of the states south of the Chesapeake, do not derive their power immediately from the people, but are elected by their representatives

in the different legislatures. To be eligible to the first office in these states, the candidates must possess ample fortunes. Money and talents are in this country not unfrequently disunited, and men who possess every mental qualification to preside over a state, may be precluded, because they have not wealth. There may be, however, some advantages in this feature of their government. Men who are rich will not aspire to office on account of the salary that may be attached to it.

At the south, candidates for office, nominate themselves, and, without hesitation, proclaim their own superior qualifications. Bribery and management are often used to procure an election; but when once obtained, the duties of the office are performed with integrity. If any intrigue or corruption is used in the various state governments of this country, it takes place at the south before an election to office; whilst, at the north, there are strong reasons to suspect that it follows this event.

The elections at the south are contested with spirit and acrimony, and the all-powerful eloquence of whiskey is profusely employed on the occasion. The different candidates (for a number often contend for 56 the same office) mount on the tops of stumps or barrels, and make speeches, whilst tapsters stand by, dealing out whiskey to the delighted audience. Wine makes men courageous, but whiskey is the drink that inspires the soul with ardent patriotism. The friends of the different candidates often manifest their zeal by words and blows; and the evening of a southern election-day usually exhibits, for the closing scene, empty whiskey casks with their heads stove in, and drunken patriots with their senses turned out.

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CHAPTER V.

Enter North Carolina—Lumberton—Fayetteville—Trade—Population—Society—Ball—Cape Fear River—Raleigh—Emancipation, &c.

On entering the state of North Carolina, the first object that I observed worthy of attention was a school-house. This, in many parts of our country, would be, to say the most of it, a trifling subject to mention; but it must be remembered, that the interest which is felt with regard to most circumstances, is in proportion to the frequency with which they are presented before us for contemplation. Little attention is paid to common school education in the more southern part of the Union. I have often met with white persons who could not distinguish one letter from another, and the small paper notes that were in circulation in Georgia for the want of specie, were distinguished by various devices to point out their respective values. A man, a horse, a ship, or a bird, when stamped on the margin of a note, indicated its value to be six, twelve, twenty-five, or fifty cents, as best suited the inclinations of the different persons who put them in circulation. The children of the rich in the southern states are well-educated. In 8 58 early life, they are put under the care of judicious preceptors. It was a frequent remark of the late president Dwight, that “schoolmasters, next to clergymen, are the greatest benefactors to mankind.” The truth of this position will not be seriously denied, although instructors in general are treated with much neglect by those who employ them. I have heard men who have only money to recommend them to notice, speak of the praise-worthy instructors who were forming the minds of their children, as persons inferior to themselves; such men know not how to appreciate any thing that is useful, dignified, or excellent in the human character. Since wealth is all that entitles them to notice, it is not surprising, that they should endeavour to make others view it as they themselves do. Were I to write the monumental epitaph of such an one, it would be, “Here lies the body of a rich fool.”

The importance of establishing schools for the education of children whose parents are in indigent circumstances, has, within a short time, attracted the attention of the legislature of North Carolina; and the beneficial effects that might be expected from it, have already begun to appear.

Lumberton, the first place I came to in North Carolina, is a small town of forty or fifty houses, situated on Lumberton river, a branch of the Pedee. It is the chief town of Robeson county, and is only thirty miles from Fayetteville. 59 Some tar is made in the neighbourhood of this place, and I saw men preparing oak staves to be sent down the river to market. The land contiguous to the river, like much of the lowlands bordering on the streams of the south, is of an excellent quality. But little of it was under cultivation, and the oak and the elm still hold their dominion over the valleys.

Fayetteville is situated one mile west of Cape Fear river, on an irregular plain. A small stream, called Cross Creek, runs through the town, and presented the first cascades I had seen in travelling near 600 miles by land in Georgia and South Carolina. The falls of Cross Creek afford many excellent scites for water-works, which are to a great extent already improved for the purpose of flouring grain and manufacturing cotton. On the margin of the river are many tan yards. This stream, with the buildings erected on its banks, give a picturesque appearance to the place. Fayetteville was originally laid out on the bank of Cape Fear river; but owing to the prevalence of intermittent fevers, that place was abandoned for its present situation, which is more salubrious.

This place has a population of more than three thousand, and many of them are from the Highlands of Scotland. It is the largest inland town in North Carolina, and carries on an extensive trade with a fine back country. The productions that are brought hither for a market, are different from those of the commercial places of Georgia and South Carolina, 60 Cotton does not constitute the principal commodity, although a considerable quantity is brought to this place. Tobacco, wheat flour, pork, and beef, and many other articles, are the products of the surrounding country.

Fayetteville is not less than one hundred miles from the ocean. Cape Fear river is navigable to this place for large boats, and much farther for smaller ones; steam-boats are

employed upon it, which facilitate very much the intercourse with Wilmington, which place is situated on the east bank of Cape Fear river, thirty miles from the sea.

In Fayetteville I attended a ball in commemoration of the day that gave birth to the father of our country, and it was conducted in a manner that indicated the refinement of the society of the place. The ladies composed a collection of wit, beauty, elegance, and vivacity, seldom equalled; and their free and agreeable manners made them highly interesting. Card tables were introduced into the room, at which some of the ladies occasionally played the game of whist. In an adjoining room, those gentlemen who preferred cards to the company of the ladies, and gambling to dancing, enjoyed themselves by turning trumps, and playing loo or brag. Playing cards is one of the principal recreations in the south in mixed assemblies; and a propensity for gambling is a too common fault. The ball was at the Masonic Hall, a handsome and appropriate building. The other public edifices in 61 Fayetteville worthy of notice, are a church, courthouse, and market. The legislature of North Carolina formerly met here, but it now convenes at Raleigh. The society of Fayetteville is very agreeable and intelligent. The place is healthy, and life may be enjoyed here by any one who may please to make this place his residence.

At eight in the evening of the 24th of February, I seated myself in the stage for Raleigh. Bad stages and bad accommodations are not uncommon in the country through which I have passed, and if a traveller were to note them all, it would be to repeat the same story every day. The weather, however, on that night, suddenly became cold, after a shower, accompanied with lightning and thunder. I was exposed the whole night to the sharp winds of winter in an open stage; and when I arrived at Raleigh, I was nearly exhausted with fatigue.

On entering the town, I passed the house erected for the governor. I have often been struck with the difference in the actions and professions of men. In profession, the people of the south are democrats; but surely their laws and conduct give them a very different

character. Instead of calling the governor's house in this place by its true name, it is styled a palace.

The appearance of Raleigh is agreeable. The streets are broad and the houses new. Every thing looks like a place of recent date. The state house 62 is a fine brick building, situated in the middle of a large green, in the centre of the town. Raleigh contains about one thousand inhabitants. It possesses no advantages for commerce, and its mere geographical situation was the reason for selecting it as a suitable place for the capital of the state.

I have often been amused with the manners and language of the lower class of people in the south. In Georgia any thing a little uncommon is said to be “too digging.” Here they “walk a heap,” and “work a heap,” and “talk a heap.” The people of the south always express themselves in the superlative degree. At a tavern in the country, at which I stopped, I inquired of the landlord, who was playing on the violin, if the people of his country were fond of dancing. “O yes,” was the reply; “night before last we had a most superb gathering; we danced a four reel most elegantly.” This manner of expression extends to the more intelligent part of the people. Simple narration is often embellished with vehement declamation. I have seen some lawyers, at the opening of a case, or in addressing the judge, appear to be as much animated as if they had been speaking an hour.

A complexion of people between black and white is fast increasing, and they seem to hold an intermediate place in society. They are usually employed as house servants, waiters, and the like, and in this situation they acquire much more information than the 63 blacks. From this class, whose numbers are increasing in a kind of two-fold ratio, by a connection between the whites and the blacks, and of the yellows with themselves, future troubles and insurrections may be expected, unless some measure is adopted to ward off the danger. This can be done by creating a separate interest between the yellows and blacks. To effect this, some principle of emancipation should be adopted for the mulattoes; so that

in time they might be admitted to enjoy the rights and privileges of whites. In this way, the whole population of the south, in a few generations, would become consolidated into one class, and slavery done away.

The intelligence of the negroes of the south is progressive, and the time must come when they will no longer brook the authority of their masters. Wisdom and prudence, as well as interest, dictate the propriety of guarding against this occurrence. The free blacks that are kidnapped at the north, and sold in the south for slaves, carry with them a mass of intelligence, which, although it may be smothered for a time, will at length burst forth into action. The revolution that has recently been accomplished in South America, began in Upper Peru half a century ago, and even the vigilance of Romish priests, and the cruelty of Spanish tyrants, could not suppress it.

The smouldering spark of liberty cannot be extinguished, and the greater the load of oppression heaped upon it, the more awful will be the conflagration 64 when it bursts into a flame. Begin, then, the work of emancipation with those who best deserve it—create a diversity of interests among the blacks before the scenes that desolated Hispaniola are acted over again—ere the low lands of the south are whitened with the bones of its present possessors.

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CHAPTER VI.

Leaving Raleigh—Observations of a Planter——Carolina Funerals—Tarborough—Banks of the Roanoke—Windsor—Edenton—Settlement of North Carolina—Rivers, Sounds, Capes, &c.

I left Raleigh in the most agreeable conveyance that I could procure. It consisted of an old English two wheel carriage, drawn by a horse somewhat older than twenty years, with a

negro to drive him, who emigrated from Africa to America because the republicans of this country would have him come.

The country, on leaving Raleigh, for the first twenty miles, was uneven, and covered with various kinds of timber. The soil was in some parts productive, but in most places resembled that which I had generally seen before. I rode twenty-five miles, and then stopped for the night at the habitation of a worthy planter. He was in the full possession of his mental faculties, although he appeared to be one of the oldest persons whom I had seen in the Carolinas. I learnt from him many interesting facts relative to the history of the state. He was possessed of a clear and discriminating mind, which was free from prejudice; and from his long experience, felt and regretted 9 66 the badness of many of their public institutions. He spoke of the want of education among the lower class of citizens, which had hitherto been entirely neglected; and observed, that the legislature had recently passed a number of laws to encourage the establishment of common schools; and remarked with emphasis, that he every day carried the children of his neighbourhood four miles to a place where there was a good instructor, and hoped to live to see a school in his own vicinity. I have had waggoners, and other country people, in the different towns through which I have passed, inquiring of me the value of a bill or ticket which they were about to receive, for fear they should be defrauded by having one given them of less amount than stipulated for.

This gentleman informed me of the manner in which funerals were conducted in this part of our country. At the decease of a person, the body is usually interred with very little ceremony. Some two or three months afterwards the funeral is celebrated, when the friends of the family are invited, and an entertainment given, which was formerly accompanied with much revelry. This custom is fast growing into disuse, and solemn and appropriate scenes are taking its place.

The next day I passed through a country considerably improved, and at night took my lodgings within eleven miles of Tarborough. The gentleman that owned the house

was a wealthy planter, who 67 was induced to entertain travellers merely for their accommodation, and who exerted himself to render their situation agreeable; his wife, a charming little woman, had every thing within her province conducted in the neatest manner; and Mr. and Mrs. P. appeared to be among those who could enjoy the blessings which this country bestows.

Tarborough is a pleasant little village, containing about three hundred inhabitants. The productions of the adjacent country are principally naval stores and grain, which are either disposed of at this place, or carried down Tar river to Washington, fifty miles below.

In the evening I was invited to a dancing party, which gave me an opportunity of seeing something of the society of Tarborough. The ladies, with the free and agreeable manners that marked the character of the females of Fayetteville, appeared desirous to make themselves interesting to a stranger.

North Carolina camper downs, or what would be more descriptive, scamper dances, were the favourite figures of the party. It would require a much more intimate acquaintance with them than I ever expect to possess, to describe them properly. The best account I can give of them is, scamper, scamper, scamper.

Twenty-five miles from Tarborough I crossed the Roanoke river. The land on its banks is the most productive of any in the state. I now and then passed 68 a farm-house surrounded by a large number of huts and corn-houses. Fields of corn-stalks, containing from 20 to 50 acres, were presented to my view on every side. The woodlands were covered with many fine and noble productions of the forest; and the majestic oak and lofty pine seemed to vie with each other in grandeur. Nature, in the formation of this country, appears to have forgot herself, or to have been amused by producing extremes. Sandy barrens, where poverty is fated eternally to reign, with now and then tracts of the most luxuriant land, compose the whole of the low country of the south.

I arrived at Windsor, a small village, situated on the Chowan river, a little before eight in the evening. It is a place of considerable trade, and few persons who settle there, fail becoming rich in a short time, unless they fall victims to its deadly climate.

I left Windsor at ten the next morning, and reached the shores of Albemarle sound by dinner time. At four I embarked in a cyprus canoe, roared by two negroes, to cross the sound to Edenton, a distance of nine miles. The wind blew almost a gale, and the sprey of sea that occasionally flew over us became immediately congealed.

Edenton is one of the oldest towns in North Carolina; but its trade has been considerably injured by some other places that have recently sprung up in its vicinity. Among these, Plymouth, on the waters of the Roanoke, takes the lead. Edenton lies at the 69 head of a small bay, and its situation is much injured by the want of a proper depth of water alongside the wharves. The streets are spacious, but appear to be laid out more by accident than design. The town contains about two thousand inhabitants; the society, like that of the other commercial towns in the state, is both intelligent and agreeable.

Edenton, like many other towns in the low country of the south, is unhealthy. The extensive marshes that border upon the bays and rivers of this place, accumulate vast quantities of decayed vegetable matter, and the miasm which the heat of summer produces, render disease familiar to all. The winters are for the most part healthy; but during that of 1816 and 1817, a fever prevailed, from the Pedee in South Carolina, to the borders of Virginia, similar to that which in winters previous had ravaged so extensively the northern states. Its effects were dreadful among the blacks, who, in sickness, are generally neglected until their disorder becomes so far advanced, that all attempts to arrest its progress prove abortive. I was on one plantation where four slaves died within twenty-four hours of each other. An experiment was tried by some of the planters of South Carolina, to feed their negroes with cotton seeds. This, however, was found not to answer, as all upon whom the attempt was made, soon left their masters by paying the debt of nature. It is singular that so little attention is paid to the health and comfort 70 fort of the

blacks. Interest and humanity alike require it. The wealth of the planters who live in the low country, consists mote in the number of negroes which they own, than in the quantity of land they possess.

At Edenton I met the villain I saw in Augusta with a camp of slaves. He had sold the whole of them, and was now engaged in procuring another drove for market, although he did not profess this to be his real purpose. He was at the hotel where I lodged; and had assumed the character of a planter who lived in the interior of Virginia, and said that his object was to purchase a few healthy negroes for his plantation. He, however, did not meet with much success; and there appeared to be a general repugnance in the minds of the people to sell the blacks to be conveyed from home, unless they were guilty of crimes. There were two or three confined in jail, which I understood would be sold to him, but on what terms I do not know, The inhabitants of North Carolina appear to have more humanity for their negroes than the people of any other slave state in the Union.

The state of North Carolina is situated between latitude 33° 50#. and 36° 30#. north, and contains about fifty thousand square miles. The first attempt to form a settlement in America by the English, was within the limits of this state. In 1585, Sir Walter Raleigh sent out a colony, who located themselves on 71 Roanoke island, in Pamlico sound; but this settlement continued only for a short time. The present population of the state is not less than six hundred thousand, about one third of which are slaves.

The productions of this state present a greater variety than any other in the Union, as both those of the north and south flourish here. The potato was first found in this state, from whence it was transported to Ireland, and it is now generally spread throughout the whole of Europe. The yapan grows in Carolina; it is a small bush, and the leaves are used by many of the inhabitants in place of tea. I found the taste of it by no means unpleasant, and, probably, in a short time, might become attached to it. Little attention has hitherto been paid to the various productions of this country, that might be used in the place of foreign

commodities, which are imported at a great loss to the nation. We have many roots and plants that might take the place of the best imported teas or spices.

There are some fine rivers in this state, the principal of which are the Roanoke and Cape Fear; and improvements are commenced, which will render them more navigable. The opening of these rivers through Pamlico and Albemarle sounds to the ocean is obstructed by bars that prevent the entrance of large vessels; were it not for this circumstance, this state would possess advantages inferior to none in the Union. It abounds with lumber of every 72 kind, which might be advantageously employed in ship building. Fish, of late years, have become a new source of wealth to the inhabitants bordering upon these sounds. The seacoast of North Carolina is considered very dangerous, and many a staunch vessel and her crew have been lost upon the shoals of Cape Hatteras, Cape Lookout, and Cape Fear.

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CHAPTER VII.

Leave Edenton—Swamps—Canal—Remarks on Animal Remains—Suffolk—Norfolk—Sailing for New-York—Conclusion.

The country from Edenton to Norfolk, is, for the most part, low and marshy. The great Dismal and the Cypress Swamps spread themselves on the borders of Virginia and Carolina. I dined within a few miles of the Dismal Swamp, and in the afternoon passed through a part of the Cypress Swamp. Every thing indicated a country fruitful with disease; and intermittent fevers prevail through every, season of the year. The inhabitants are a puny sallow race, and live a miserable life of sickly inactivity.

The Dismal Swamp is more than forty miles in length and twenty in breadth; its soil is composed of a deep vegetable mould, which is covered with lofty cypress and juniper trees, whose towering branches, interwoven, exclude the rays of the sun, and cast a deep shade on the mire below. This swamp, in the early settlement of Virginia, was considered

almost impenetrable throughout; and the names of those who first explored it are handed down to us in the history of those times with 10 74 a kind of admiration for the heroic boldness of the achievement. To this swamp the bear and the wolf have fled for protection; and the heart-chilling howls of beasts of prey are rendered doubly terrific by the silent gloom of the deepening forest. This swamp, which was so terrific, has now become the means of extensive inland communication. The Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal passes through it, and is supplied with water from a lake in the middle of the swamp. There is much valuable timber contiguous to the canal, but the time may come when the Dismal and Cypress Swamps will be converted into rich and beautiful fields of rice or corn.

Many fanciful theories have been suggested respecting the formation of the low country south of the Chesapeake; and the celebrity of the names that have given currency to them, may require some remarks on the structure and original formation of this section of America. The interest that it presents, in a geological point of view, is far from being equal to many other parts of the United States. I shall not attempt to investigate the ingenious theory of Mr. Buffon, or the fanciful notions of the Abbé Raynal; neither shall I dwell upon the wild theories of some other writers who have speculated upon the subject, and advanced opinions without ever examining into their correctness.

That the continent of America has undergone many changes, as well as the continents of Europe, Asia, 75 and Africa, is placed beyond a question; and that these changes have taken place at a period of time far remote, is equally obvious. The manner in which these wonderful phenomena have been produced, is the interesting subject of inquiry: The Huttonian philosophers suppose them to be the effects of fusion: The Neptunians believe that they have been produced by a deluge: Whilst others believe that the present appearance of this earth is to be accounted for upon the principle that the formation of it was the work of ages, and that by a succession of concretions of loose particles of matter floating in a heterogeneous mass of existence, its present organization was produced; they reject the Mosaic account of the creation of the world as fabulous, unsupported by evidence, and contrary to their experience. In support of all the various theories that have

been suggested, men of the first grade of intellect have elicited the whole force of their minds, and strenuously contended for the correctness of their principles.

That this globe has, at some period or other, been deluged, is to my mind obvious. And it is equally certain, that the animals in existence anterior to this event were very similar to those that now inhabit it. I believe, if we except the mammoth, that there are no organized remains of animals yet discovered but can be assigned to some species still in being. These remains are, nevertheless, found in regions at present uninhabited by the living race. The ivory of the 76 elephant is found in such abundance in Siberia as to become an article of commerce. I have seen the remains of fishes that were found on the top of the Alps. The miners of Derbyshire, in England, who have penetrated many hundred feet into the bowels of the earth, meet with the remains of sea animals. In excavating the rock of Gibraltar, bones of animals are often found, which probably belonged to the family of the ape or monkey; and we are told that some labourers at Fontainbleau, in France, engaged in quarrying stone, after, having penetrated more than forty feet below the surface, discovered obvious vestiges that workmen had been there before them. A slab, converted into agate, with all the appearances of having once been used by miners to roll stone upon, was one among the many marks of the truth of this interesting fact. In our own country, instances equally striking are to be met with. Not to mention the mammoth, which is well known, the remains of other animals are found in places now wholly inaccessible to them. The bones of whales and other marine animals are found quite in the interior of our country. In crossing the Great Pedee, I observed in a place in the bank where the earth had been recently excavated, oyster shells of a very large size. The natural road on the southern side of Lake Ontario is composed, to a considerable extent, of marine shells; and in the vicinity of Sackett's Harbour, the remains of many of the natives of 77 the ocean are found imbedded in secondary carbonate of lime. West of the Ohio, the remains of trees have been found with marks of the axe upon them, buried deep in the ground. Almost every day we hear of some newly discovered organic remains in America; although but a small proportion of this continent has been visited, much less critically examined,

by any person acquainted with the science of geology, yet we may indulge the hope, that our hemisphere will not fall behind that which constitutes the old world in producing instances of the organic remains of animals. In what manner are they to be accounted for? That they are secondary to the first formation of this planet cannot be denied; and that none but an almighty power could be adequate to produce such astonishing changes is equally obvious. It is a maxim in philosophy, that that theory which assigns the most simple cause for an effect is to be preferred. The flood, according to the Mosaic account, is the most powerful convulsion that has ever agitated this globe. Of the situation of this earth prior to that event, we are entirely ignorant: we know nothing of its soil and climate; and whether it was then diversified with hills and valleys, or checkered with lakes and mountains, is a subject equally beyond the reach of human knowledge. The wilds of Siberia might have enjoyed, prior to this watery deluge, the genial warmth of the mildest climes; and the deserts of Zahara may have been 78 covered with perennial verdure. The elephant of the torrid, and the white bear of the frigid zone, might, then, have basked in the same sun, or reclined beneath the same shade. It is equally uncertain whether rain ever descended from the clouds prior to the submersion of the planet we inhabit, or whether the corruscations of the lightning illumined the night. That this globe has undergone mighty changes, there is the clearest evidence; and unless they are attributed to the flood, to what cause can they be assigned? Casualists may conjecture, and theorists devise; but I would still rather believe, that the sins of the old world so debased and distorted its moral aspect, that the wisdom of its Maker thought proper to change the whole face of it, in order to wipe away the pollution with which it was defiled.

Suffolk was the first place I came to in Virginia; it is built on Nansemond river, about thirty miles from Norfolk, and is the chief town of Nansemond county. Its situation is pleasant, and it has considerable trade. At this place, I was detained a few hours, waiting for the stage which was to convey me to Norfolk. I was unfortunate in my selection of the public house at which I stopped, and I had the mortification of finding myself associated with

pedlars and blackguards, who were revelling on whiskey, and vieing with each other in vulgarity and profaneness.

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The planters of the southern states live loosely scattered over an extensive country; and the many little wants of a family could not be procured without resorting to some one of their county towns, were it not for the travelling trading people who traverse the country. These wandering merchants are either natives of New-England or of Europe, and in both cases they possess the same character. They left their homes and their native attachments to acquire property, and they consider themselves as strangers who have no character to lose or acquire; as beings isolated from society, who may, in the accomplishment of their object, practise every deception. Take away from the merchant, or the money-making man, his personal responsibility, and he sinks quickly into a knave or a cheat, unless he feels in a strong manner his moral responsibility. This is the situation of the pedlars; and with the loss of probity, they quickly acquire those low and vulgar habits which expel every tender and gentle passion from the soul.

Norfolk is built on the east side of Elizabeth river, and is the principal seaport town in Virginia; its harbour is very capacious, and vessels of eighteen feet draft of water may come to the town. The city has not less than twelve thousand inhabitants, who are a busy, active people. The United States have an extensive naval depot in the neighbourhood of this place, which will, from its contiguity to the 80 ocean, afford many advantages to our navy. My stay at Norfolk was short, as I there received news of a private nature that required my immediate presence in New-York. My original plan of passing into the interior of one of the largest states in the Union—of beholding Mount Vernon—of visiting the caves in the mountains; I was reluctantly compelled to relinquish, and I sought the quickest mode of returning to the place whence these travels were begun. A vessel was about to sail for New-York, and a brisk wind from the southwest promised a speedy passage. At nine in

the morning of the 10th of March, 1817, I left Norfolk, and forty-eight hours from that time I landed in the city of my hopes and my friends—the capital of the western world.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

PART II.

TRAVELS IN NORTH AMERICA. CHAPTER I.

Introduction—Jersey Coast—First Visit to the Ocean—Monmouth Plains—Return to New-York—Steam Boat Travelling—Hudson River—Newburgh—Surrounding Scenery, &c.

The traveller who commences his journey at Sandy-Hook, where the waters of the Hudson mingle with the Atlantic waves and spread along the adjacent shores, and follows the course of the river to the place whence it begins to flow, is every where delighted with the diversity of scenery that beautifies the banks of this majestic stream.

“From Sandy-Hook south along the Jersey coast, the ocean boldly approaches the shore. Here no alluvion is formed, as in other parts of the coast; but 11 84 the ocean rather wears away the land. The temperate breezes from the sea, contribute equally to destroy the influence of the chilling blasts of winter, and allay the fervent heat of summer. Wandering on the extensive beach, in full view of the boundless prospect toward the rising sun, the traveller feels the salutary influence of the sea-breeze by day, and at night is lulled to repose by the distant sullen roar of the ocean. At seasons, too, the sea, bearing on its bosom the commerce of a great city, is calm, smooth and unruffled, diffusing through the mind a placid serenity; and at other times, may be surveyed afar, the rude conflict of contending waves—an elemental war amidst a wilderness of waters.”

It is now five years since I first beheld this animating scenery. In the month of July, 1815, I sailed down the bay of New-York to the ocean, landed on the Jersey shore, crossed the highlands of Neversink, and visited the plains of Monmouth, made memorable by a victory

gained by Washington over Lord Howe, on the 28th of June, 1778; from thence I returned to Sandy-Hook, and re-surveyed the bay and harbour of New-York.

The forts and batteries, the intrenchments and the mounds, that had been erected during the late war upon the islands that lay contiguous to the city of New-York, still preserved much of their martial appearance. The drum and the fife, at times, sent forth the sound of war, and the sentinel stood with an idle 85 gaze, whilst the sun-beams played upon his polished arms. The whole scene was animated with the joyful return of commerce, which was expanding its wings to every breeze, and life, and love, and hope, seemed to have regained their primeval vigour. Nature, too, lent her aid to give new delights to the enraptured traveller. The fields that spread themselves from the adjacent shores, were covered with rich verdure, and the green corn waved beneath the gentle touch of the zephyrs. Such are the delightful recollections of my first excursion to the ocean.

It was on the evening of the 15th of June, 1818, that I commenced my tour to the north and west. The usual mode of travelling on the Hudson is in steam boats, and I availed myself of the expeditious conveyance which they afford. To men of business, whose object is despatch, steam boats offer great facilities; and with people who are fond of appearance, they may be fascinating; but the constant hum and bustle of passengers, and the monotonous sound and motion of the machinery always experienced in this mode of travelling, created in me a disgust, and I wished to exchange the elegance and despatch of a steam boat, for a conveyance where every motion would produce a varied charm.

As I approached the wharf at which the boat received her passengers, the sharp blast of the trumpet echoed through the streets to admonish the tardy passenger that a few moments delay would leave 86 him behind; and when I reached the place, all was bustle—friends were taking leave of friends, and men of business were crowding around, in hopes of finding some one to whom they might entrust a package of letters to be distributed amongst their connexions in the west. At times, too, the steam escaping through the long tubes that are prepared to carry off the excess of vapour, gushed forth with a hoarse and

hollow sound. At length the word was given, “all on board,” and the boat began to move. The sky was clear and serene, whilst a gentle breeze from the west, carried the curling cloud of smoke, as it arose from the furnace, over the city, which we were fast leaving behind. I seated myself beneath the awning that was spread over the stern of the vessel, and with eager eye surveyed the departing scenery. By this time we were abreast of Weehawken, the famous duelling ground of New-York, and the monument of Hamilton Was opened to my view. It is situated on a level space, close to the margin of the river, near which lofty precipices are elevated, covered with deepening shades. The channel of the Hudson lies in nearly a north direction, from its mouth, almost to its very source; and the traveller who ascends if from the city of New-York, beholds at the commencement on the west side of the river, the towering ledges of basaltic rocks that look down upon the stream, whilst on the east side, the villas on York island first appear, and farther on, the cultivated fields of the county of Westchester spread themselves to view.

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About thirty-six miles from New-York, a fellow passenger pointed to a place on the east side of the river, where Major Andre was captured, and nearly opposite, on the declivity of a hill, where that unfortunate man was launched into eternity. At the sight of these, a mingled emotion of pity and indignation filled my mind. Andre, to serve his king, risked and lost his life; whilst Arnold, to gratify private resentment, wished to sacrifice his country. Had the one not been taken, our independence might have been lost; and had the other not been a traitor, his name would have been enrolled in the temple of fame, among the heroes of our country.

Forty miles from New-York, the Highlands commence. They are ledges of primitive rocks elevated in some places nearly two thousand feet above the level of the river, and extending on either side of the Hudson for a distance of fifteen miles. It was night when I first passed through them; the sky was serene, and a full moon rising from the east lighted up the cliffs that hang over the western side of the stream, whilst the bold precipices that project on the other side of the river excluded the rays of the queen of night, and the

image of their craggy forms was impressed in a deep shade on the bosom of the gliding tide. Bare-Mountain first attracted my attention. It is on the west side of the river, and its greatest altitude is fourteen hundred feet. Nearly opposite to this, is Anthony's Nose, a cliff so called from its 88 resemblance to the profile of the human face. The river at this point winds around the base of the precipice, and leaves the beholder, as it were, embosomed on either side with mountains, without being able to discover any opening through which the river might pass. West-Point is situated on the west side of the Hudson, about five miles from the termination of the Highlands. This is the scite of the first military school in America. The river here makes a short turn around a point of land that spreads itself into a small plain at the foot of the mountain, on the summit of which stands the decayed remains of Fort Putnam, at an elevation of six hundred feet above the river. No place could be better calculated for the purpose for which it is appropriated than West-Point. The military history of the place—the importance that it held in the early settlement of this country—and the rugged aspect of the surrounding scenery, all conspire to give a bold and manly courage to those who may be placed here to learn the art of war.

Newburgh is situated on the declivity of a hill that rises more than one hundred feet above the level of the river, and contains about three thousand inhabitants. It is one of the most flourishing towns on the North River, and its trade is rapidly increasing. The principal business is done on a street that runs parallel with the river, and elevated but a few feet above it. The public buildings are situated on the 89 top of the hill, where are also a number of private dwellings.

The scenery that surrounds this place, is among the finest that I ever beheld. In the south, the broken highlands rise heaps on heap, in lofty grandeur, through which a deep chasm opens for the passage of the Hudson. Passing the eye toward the east, it rests on the side of the mountain, which rises in a steep and regular manner, and covered to the top with trees of the deepest shade. Further on, the cultivated fields of Dutchess county spread themselves, adorned with all the charms of art and nature. In the north, at the distance of sixty miles, the cloud-capped Catskills caught the sight, whilst beneath the feet the

Hudson glided smoothly on, covered with a thousand sails, laden with the productions of the country through which I was about to pass.

It is supposed that the country around Newburgh was, at some time or other, covered with water; and that the whole country, extending from the Highlands on the south, to the Catskills on the north, and spreading east from the Shawangunk mountains to the hills on the borders of Connecticut, was once the bed of a vast lake. The present passage of the Hudson, through the Highlands, is imagined to have been produced by some mighty throe of nature, at which time the waters of this lake rushed through, and formed the present channel of the river. 12

At how distant a period this event took place, is beyond the reach of conjecture; or whether it has ever happened, may reasonably be doubted. What convulsion of this earth, of which there is any account, could have been sufficiently powerful to rend asunder a chain of primitive rocks, like the Highlands, extending fifteen miles in length, and opened in some places to a depth of more than two thousand feet?

Perhaps I may be accused of heresy for doubting the opinions of the supporters of this doctrine. I will therefore pursue it no farther.

CHAPTER II.

Leaving Newburgh—Bloomingburgh—The Mammoth—Shawangunk Mountains—Monticello—Delaware River—Susquehanna River—Chenango—Owego—Ithica—Geneva—Canandaigua.

From Newburgh, a fine road leads into the interior of the country, upon which I continued my journey, which was alternately diversified with hills and valleys, forests and cleared

fields, flowing rivers and meandering streams, until I reached the shores of the western lakes.

Twelve miles from Newburgh stands the village of Montgomery, a fine little place built near the Walkill river, which supplies abundance of water for the manufacturing that is here carried on. Twelve miles from Montgomery, I came to the village of Bloomingburgh, which is situated at the foot of the Shawangunk mountains.

In the vicinity of Montgomery, the remains of a mammoth were recently discovered, the skeleton of which was in a good state of preservation. What a pity it is that this huge animal has become extinct. Had he remained alive until the discovery of America, and its settlement by the whites, of how great service might he have been. 92 Taking him to have been the elephant of America, but much larger than that of Asia, and possessed of the same docile disposition, with what facility might he have been taught to assist in the abridgment of human labour. With teams of mammoths, forests might have been torn up by the roots, rocks removed, and in short, agriculture could have been carried on upon a scale commensurate with the vastness of our country.

In the original constitution of things, there seems to have been a happy correspondence of every part of creation. For the narrow limits of Europe, the ox appears to be amply sufficient; the more rugged Asia possesses the elephant, whilst the mammoth was reserved for the extended plains, the huge mountains, the vast lakes, and the immense rivers of my native America.

The Shawangunk mountains extend in a north east and south west direction, and are a continuation of the Blue hills of Pennsylvania. They are cultivated quite to their summits, and the eastern parts of them are fertile, whilst they become less and less productive toward their western borders. From the village of Bloomingburgh, the road winds up the first ascent of the mountain for more than a mile, and then runs along among the rising hills. When I had gained the summit of the first mountain, I looked back on the bordering

plains: I stood elevated on one side of a vast amphitheatre—the spectacle was imposing. The rich grazing county of 93 Orange, over the cultivated plains of which, teeming herds of black cattle were cropping the luxuriant grass, met my eyes, whilst those emblems of refinement and of piety, the glittering spires of the distant churches, added the beauties of art to the charms of nature.

Forty miles from Newburgh I came to the village of Monticello. This village is situated in the township of Thompson, on the highest elevation of ground between the Hudson and Delaware rivers, and has a commanding view of the surrounding country. It is the capital of Sullivan county, and contains a court house, built in a neat modern style, beside a number of private dwellings.

From its great elevation, the soil of this place is colder than that of the neighbouring valleys; yet Monticello is not without its charms and advantages. There are in the township of Thompson, many fine streams of water, which may, in the progress of time, enable it to become one of the richest manufacturing districts in this state.

Within eight miles of the village of Monticello, there are seven lakes, from three to five miles in circumference, that afford a great variety of fish; among the largest and most beautiful of which, is the salmon trout, which have been frequently caught, weighing from twelve to fourteen pounds.

The neighbouring woods abound with all kinds of game peculiar to the forests of America. The 94 white rabbit, of the size of the English hare, is often found here. Many persons who have emigrated from England to this place, are of opinion, that this animal is the genuine hare, but has changed its colour with the climate.

The remains of sea animals are often found in the vicinity of this place that have undergone many curious changes. The shell of the lobster has been changed into a silicious substance, many specimens of which scintilate freely with the steel.

The broken country that borders on the Delaware, near where I crossed the river, is composed of a thin cold clayey soil. Yet poor tracts of country have not been made in vain; a thin cold soil, that refuses to repay the husbandman for the labour he may expend upon it in attempting to cultivate food for man and beast, may nevertheless supply many of the wants of society. On such tracts of land, the lofty pine and the towering hemlock spread their branches, and the poor cottager, who with his ax prostrates the monarch of the forest, with no other object in view, than that of providing food for himself and family, may claim the praise of having struck the first blow in providing the loftiest mast of some victorious fleet. Large quantities of lumber are procured in the broken regions of the Shawangunk mountains, and transported down the Delaware to Philadelphia for a market, Here agriculture can never flourish, and the bear and the wolf will continue to dwell in the cliffs of the mountains whilst pine trees grow or hemlocks thrive on a frigid soil.

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Twenty miles from Monticello, I came to the banks of the Delaware, where it winds its course through broken hills. This river rises in the state of New-York, and after making many windings, mingles with the ocean between the Capes of May and Henlopen. The river received its name from a once powerful tribe of Indians, through whose dominions its waters flowed, and who have long since fled from the approach of white men. The remains of this tribe now dwell to the north of Lake Huron, within the dominions of Canada; and they will long be remembered as having been among the first aborigines who embraced the christian religion through the pious exertions of missionaries.

The scenery of the whole country, from the Delaware to the Susquehannah, is highly picturesque. Mountains, susceptible of cultivation to their summits, watered with rivulets that trickle down their sides;rich valleys that are beginning to be cultivated, and washed by streams that meander through them, together with the immense tracts of forests through which I passed, gave to me a rich variety of prospect.

I crossed the Susquehannah at what is called the Great Bend. The river in this place makes a short turn, and runs in a north-west direction for some miles, nearly parallel with the part of the river above the bend. This is a noble stream, and its head waters rise in different parts of the state of 96 New-York, which, after running through fertile valleys, unite themselves one by one to the main branch, and form a majestic river, which, after having watered some of the richest counties of Pennsylvania, enters the state of Maryland, and mingles its waters with those of the Potomac in the bay of Chesapeake.

Chenango is a pleasant village, situated eight miles from the Great Bend of the Susquehannah. It is the capital of Broome county, and contains fifty or sixty houses. The Chenango river, one of the principal branches of the Susquehannah, passes through the village. Along the banks of the river are fine tracts of interval land, whilst the country around is broken and hilly.

From Chenango to Owego, the road ran along the Susquehannah. I here and there passed fine houses, surrounded with well cultivated farms, and adorned with fruitful orchards.

Owego is agreeably situated on the banks of the Susquehannah. The river is navigable at this place for boats often tons, and rafts descend it in the freshets of spring and fall. The lumber business employs a considerable proportion of the inhabitants of this part of the country.

From Owego to Ithaca, I passed through a fine country, although it was frequently broken into ridges. It was obvious, that I was fast approaching the rich wheat fields of the western part of the state 97 of New-York. The soil became blacker than it had been before, and the inhabitants were busily engaged in husbanding their farms.

At the head of Cayuga lake stands the village of Ithaca. It contains nearly one hundred houses, and is fast increasing. Perhaps there is no town in the west where the inhabitants

are more active and industrious. Large quantities of sulphate of lime are brought to this place from near the outlet of the lake, where it is found in the greatest abundance; and this invaluable manure is beginning to be generally used throughout the country south of the lakes. The land in the neighbourhood of the lakes varies in gentle undulations, is easily cultivated, and generally free from stones.

Twenty years ago, the land lying between Cayuga and Seneca lakes was one continued forest. The sound of the wood chopper had not been heard, and the wild beast of the forest prowled, where villages have since been erected.

Between Ithaca and Geneva, I dined at the house of a respectable private gentleman, who had moved to the west when the country was entirely new. His own words convey the best idea of the improvement of the country. He remarked, “it is fifteen years this summer since I moved to this place. My family, at that time, consisted of a wife and three children. There was no settlement for some miles around me; my waggon was the only shelter for 13 98 my wife and her little ones. I commenced clearing, and in a short time I built a cottage of logs; by fall I had cleared land enough to sow some wheat; winter came on, and it was long and dreary; but the return of spring brought back smiles to my loving wife; seven years ago I built the house in which I dwell; my family have grown up around me; you see the cultivation of my farm, my dwelling, my barn, and my out-houses—I am rich and happy.” Such is the history of many of the inhabitants of this country.

Geneva is a fine village, of one hundred and fifty houses, agreeably situated on the west shore of the Seneca lake. It has a fine view of the lake and adjacent country. The lake here is about three miles wide. It is a beautiful collection of water, abounding with a variety of fish.

Much taste has been displayed in selecting names for the townships that border on the beautiful collection of waters in this part of the state. Among these may be found the classic names of Virgil, Ovid, Hector, and Ulysses.

Ovid has been a place of considerable business. It was the capital of Seneca county; but it is falling into decay. Names are sometimes indicative of character, and in this instance, had some other name than Ovid been given to this place, its prosperity might have been lasting.

Canandaigua is a delightful village. It is situated 99 near the outlet of a lake of the same name. The land rises in a gentle ascent from the water, of which it commands a handsome prospect. It contains one hundred and forty houses, beside a number of public buildings. It is the capital of Ontario county. The town is principally built on a single street, which is nearly two miles in length. Its trade is very considerable, and it has hitherto been larger than that of any of the towns in this part of the state.

This place has become the residence of a number of wealthy gentlemen, who have acquired their property by speculation in lands. That they might be near their possessions, they have chosen this place for their residence; and, perhaps, there is no town of its size in our country, where there is more elegance and refinement among its inhabitants.

The inhabitants of the western part of this state, are principally from New-England. With them they have brought the religion and manners of the east. In their social habits, perhaps they have improved. The country is not old enough to create the distinctions of wealth and family. Emigrated from a land that bears a common name, and endeared to it, by the ties of kindred and of friends, they look upon all the New-England people who come among them, as members of the same family from which they sprang. The children who are born here, partake of the same sympathetic emotions, and the mantle of affection descends from father to son. I 100 have often heard those who are born in the west, claim New-England as their mother country. To me, the expression of such feelings were gratifying indeed. I felt a pleasure in seeing such strong attachments existing between different parts of our common country. The western regions are settled and settling with

emigrants from the Atlantic states. They all remember with delight, the place whence they came. What strong ligaments, then, are these, in holding together the union of the states?

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CHAPTER III.

Rochester—Genesee River—Bridge—Ridge Road—Lewiston—Queenston Heights—Bridgewater—Chippewa.

The village of Rochester is situated on the west side of the Genesee river, nearly opposite to the falls, and within nine miles of Lake Ontario, and contains not less than one hundred houses. It presents a most striking instance of the rapid growth of the country. Six years since, the country, for many miles around, was little less than a continued forest; and the stumps of trees are still standing in the streets, and the ground remains unlevelled around them.

The local advantages of this place are great. The produce of the country bordering on the Genesee river, is brought hither in boats, whence it is shipped down Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence to Montreal. The falls of the Genesee afford scites for a vast number of mills, and the river furnishes a never-failing supply of water. The surrounding country, for a great distance, is so level, that sufficient falls of water cannot be procured for the erection of water-works, and it is from this circumstance that Rochester has had such a rapid growth. 102 This village must, in time, become a large commercial and manufacturing town.

The Genesee river rises in the state of Pennsylvania, and after flowing nearly one hundred and fifty miles, empties itself into Lake Ontario. It waters one of the finest wheat countries in America. This river is navigable for boats more than seventy miles above the falls, of which there are two principal ones. The largest fall is ninety feet in height, and the other seventy feet; they are formed by the continuation of the ridge which constitutes the falls of Niagara.

Immediately above the falls, the projected line of the great western canal crosses the river; and when I reflect upon the immense tract of county through which this contemplated work is to be made; the richness of its soil, and the industry of its inhabitants, I cannot but express my admiration of the undertaking, and my hearty wish for its success.

The natural outlet of our western seas is through the domain of a foreign power. The tenor upon which we shall enjoy its use, will always be precarious, besides the difficulty of its navigation. The country that borders on Lake Erie, is settling with rapidity, and likewise that of the upper lakes. Its importance is every day increasing; and should its productions continue to descend the St. Lawrence, attachments will be formed for the government of a foreign nation unfriendly to our own.

A bridge is thrown across the Genesee, below the falls, that is supported by a single arch, the chord of which is three hundred and fifty feet in length. The banks of the river at this place are little less than three hundred feet in height, and to support the work before it was completed, a frame had to be erected from the bottom of the river to the top of the arch. This bridge is in a line with the famous ridge road, one of the greatest curiosities of our country.

This great natural road commences at the Niagara river, and runs parallel with the lake until it is lost in the country east of the Genesee. Its average distance from the lake is about seven miles, and its elevation not far from one hundred and seventy feet above it. It varies in width from six to twelve rods, and is raised nearly ten feet above the ground on each side. No artificial road can surpass it in beauty; its surface is a continued plain for eighty miles. It is composed of a mixture of schistus, argil, shells and sand. It is emphatically called Nature's Turnpike; and it has required the trees only to be removed to make it the best road I ever saw.

It is supposed that this ridge was once the shore of Lake Ontario, and that the lake has been reduced to its present level by the wearing away of its outlet; but before this theory can be received for truth, there are many interesting points of inquiry to be investigated, which can only be done by the most 104 minute survey. The science of geology is yet in its infancy; this is particularly true as it regards this country; and this, like the early history of every other kind of human knowledge, is perplexed with many theories, unsupported by observation or experience. Fanciful notions are often formed by persons of warm imaginations, who conceive without knowledge, and which, for a long time, pass for sober reason and practical observation.

Along the ridge road from Genesee river to Lewiston, the country is but thinly settled. The soil is, however, for the most part, of a good quality, and it must, ere long, attract the attention of the emigrant farmer.

Lewiston is built on the east side of the Niagara river, at about an equal distance from Lake Ontario and the falls of Niagara, on a plain, immediately at the foot of the slope of high ground that forms the elevation of the falls of Niagara. The navigation of the river below the falls, terminates here, and whatever commodities are conveyed from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, must be transported twelve miles by land from this place.

The Tuscarora Indians reside about three miles from Lewiston. They are about three hundred in number; a fine athletic race of men, who have made much progress in the arts of civilization.

Nearly opposite to Lewiston, stands the town of Queenston, in the province of Canada. I crossed 105 the river to this place, and for the first time sat foot in the dominions of a foreign power. The hotel at which I lodged was decorated with the arms of England, whilst the eagle of my own country was plainly visible on the signs of the inns on the American side of the river.

The recollection of the events that had taken place during the late war gave a new interest to the surrounding country. I was in the neighbourhood of the battle grounds of Queenston, Bridgewater, and Chippewa, places that must excite lively emotions in the breast of every American.

The British had erected fortifications on the summit of Queenston heights, from which they were enabled to do much injury to the Americans who were on the opposite side of the river. It was determined by the American general to attack them, and Colonels Van Rensselaer and Christie were entrusted with executing this resolution. They crossed the river from Lewiston before light, and at the first appearance of day, charged up the precipice at the head of their brave men, and completely routed the enemy.

The hill is so steep, that in ascending it I had frequently to lay hold of the grass that grew on its sides to help me up. The English were reinforced from Fort George, who again attacked the Americans, and our brave countrymen, overpowered by numbers, were plunged from the heights into the abyss below. 14

Bridgewater is three miles north of Niagara. The enemy posted themselves on a rise of ground now called Drummond Hill, where they were attacked by General Scott, who, man to man, opposed American valour to the best disciplined troops that Wellington ever saw. The battle was by moonlight; and for three hours she spread her pale rays over a field of blood and slaughter. The enemy retreated, and we were victorious; but exhausted with fatigue and carnage, the American general thought proper to fall back to his encampment. One major general, together with some cannon, and a number of prisoners, were the trophies of this victory.

Chippewa is situated three miles above the falls. A small river of the same name empties itself at this place into the Niagara river. The Americans had encamped within a short distance of this river, whither the British marched to meet them. The battle was in an

open field, and the numbers on both sides nearly equal. I need not mention that we were victorious.

The falls of Niagara are situated at nearly an equal distance from Lakes Erie and Ontario. The country around Lake Erie is elevated about 300 feet above Lake Ontario; this elevation commences on the north side of Lake Ontario, and, passing round its head, runs along its side until it crosses the Niagara river at Lewiston, where the falls are supposed originally to have been; from thence it runs along 107 the lake until it becomes lost in the country east of the Genesee.

This ridge is composed of what may not improperly be called a Schistus Limestone; and the falls have worn a deep chasm in it for nearly eight miles, through which the water, after leaping over the Great Falls, rushes with astonishing impetuosity, exhibiting to the bewildered beholder a mingled commotion of whirlpools, foam, and spherical heaps of water bursting at their tops, and throwing sprey to an astonishing height. The largest of these whirlpools receives trees within it, which, after having been carried down by the current, shoot out in a perpendicular direction, whilst the trunks, elevated many feet above the surface of the water, are carried round with the apparent case and velocity of a top.

The cataract has been so often described, that it is almost unnecessary to repeat it. The Table Rock presents the finest view of the falls. It is situated on the west side of the river, just at the point of the Great Pitch. I approached quite to the edge of it, and stood and gazed on the stupendous scene. It was awfully grand and sublime. An immense volume of water pouring over a precipice more than one hundred and fifty feet in height, into an abyss which none can fathom—vast clouds of sprey rolling upwards, amongst which rainbows forever play—the incessant foam and ebullition of the wreathing waves below—the tremendous roar of the 108 falling flood—the dread of the rock falling from beneath the feet—the deep and solemn shade of the trees that hang bending over the abyss, produced emotions which none can describe, and a terror that the shipwrecked mariner alone can conceive.

Above the falls, for nearly a mile, the water moves with all the motion of a troubled sea. Water-fowl that light upon it, are unable to regain the wing, and are hurried swiftly on to destruction.

The cataract is divided about the centre by a small island, which, together with the falls, forms nearly a semi-circle three quarters of a mile in extent.

As I turned to retire from this scene, a deep crevice in the Table Rock caught my eyes. I started at the sight; and hastening across it, inquired of my guide why he had not warned me of my danger. He replied, that the aperture came last spring, and the rock would not disengage itself until next winter's frost. The piece was nearly twenty feet in diameter. A few days after I had visited this scene the rock fell; fortunately it was in the night—persons had been upon it the preceding day.

From this place I proceeded to the ladder, to descend beneath the cataract. It is some rods below the falls, and its feet rest on the rough fragments that have fallen from above. On these I advanced towards the cavern formed by the projection of the falling water from the rock. The vast precipice hung leaning over my head, and with 109 towering aspect threatened to fall upon me. I entered the dreary cavern, and with my hands resting on its side, advanced slowly into this region of dread. A continued current of air is forever rushing from it, accompanied with sprey, like a heavy storm. The translucent fluid admits a gleam of light, decreasing from the mouth of the cave until it leaves the bold adventurer in almost total darkness, at the moment his progress is stopped by a cliff, jutting from the main rock, over which none can pass. Drenched with wet, I retraced my steps; and after crawling nearly six rods, I passed the mouth of the cavern.

From beneath the Table Rock I procured fine specimens of indurated moss, formed by the infiltration of a solution of limestone, by sulphuric acid, in the bowels of the earth. Native sulphur, incrusting the rocks, was here and there to be seen, and gypsum, approaching

almost in beauty to alabaster, was to be found, formed by the acid of the sulphur, uniting with the limestone.

I at length ascended the ladder, and seating myself on the bank, gazed in silent admiration on the scene. A train of wild and gloomy thoughts passed through my mind; and rising to retire, I involuntarily exclaimed, these are thy works, Almighty God—these thy wondrous power display.

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CHAPTER IV.

Niagara—General Putnam—St. Catherine's Settlers in Canada—Government—Passage down Lake Ontario—Sacket's Harbour—Ogdensburgh—Description of the St. Lawrence Rapids.

After I had surveyed the battle grounds of Bridgewater and Chippewa, and contemplated the grandeur and sublimity of the Mighty Falls, I returned to Queenston, whence I pursued my journey towards the head of Lake Ontario.

The country about Queenston has been settled for a long time. The French, during the reign of the sagacious Louis the Fifteenth, formed the most stupendous plans for the extension of their dominions in North America. They followed the course of the two great rivers, the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi quite to their sources, and established military posts and settlements wherever they could afford any facility for the accomplishment of their grand object—the acquiring the sovereignty of North America. They had early established military posts on the borders of Lake Ontario, and those erected near the mouth of the Niagara river were among the most important. Fort Niagara, which commands the entrance of the river of the same name, was, 111 until the late war, an old French castle. It is built on the American side of the river, and it is now rebuilding, so as to form a military post of considerable strength.

From Queenston to the town of Niagara, a distance of nine miles, the country is a continued plain, thickly inhabited by the descendants of early French emigrants, who dwell in chatteaux, built after the manner of the dwellings of their ancestors in France.

The village of Niagara, or, as it was called previous to the late war, Newark, is situated on the borders of Lake Ontario, near the mouth of the Niagara river. The country around it for many miles is a continued plain, which, in many places, is in a high state of cultivation.

This place was burnt in the late war by the American general, who evacuated Fort George, which fort is the military post on the Canada side of the river Niagara, and commands its entrance. It was garrisoned at the time I was there by a regiment of soldiers from the highlands of Scotland. A number of them were passing by the hotel at which I lodged in the evening, whilst I was engaged in conversation with one of their officers, who called them in to sing some of the favourite songs of their native land.

We directed the bar-keeper to give them whatever they might wish, and these war-worn soldiers soon forgot, in the arms of Bacchus, that they were in a foreign land; the “days of other years” returned 112 to their recollection, and they sung with great glee their favourite airs, occasionally interrupting each other with “tales of other times.” Love again returned to the breasts of those who, by the fate of war, had long since been led from their native land. The Lass of Lochinvar, who, like her lover, had once bloomed in the beauty of youth, was admired and extolled by him who, in the gay day of early life, had conveyed her across the lake; and the wrinkles of age and the wounds of the sword alike softened into the expression of youthful beauty and innocent delight, at the soul-soothing recollection of the maid that had once been adored. But their joys, when they arose to depart, were, in the language of Ossian, “pleasant though mournful to the soul.”

At this place I became acquainted with a Colonel M—, who live at St. Catharines, a village about fifteen miles from Fort George. He had served in the English army during the war of the revolution, and had witnessed many of the interesting scenes of that unnatural contest.

He was present at the famous descent of General Putnam down the hill, which now bears his name. “I was,” said he, “at that time, a cornet of dragoons. When the English army first came in sight of the Americans, they were posted on a rise of ground near a church; there were only a few of them, and these opened upon us a well-directed fire. When the English had advanced within about eighty rods of them, General Tryon 113 ordered the dragoons to charge; the order was obeyed, and the Americans fled into the fields and the bushes. There was one officer on horseback who seemed to challenge the speed of our chargers —he was the last that gave way, and wheeling his horse, a race commenced between him and ourselves. It was nearly half a mile to the precipice, and we were fast gaining upon him; I was sure of his being taken, but to my utter astonishment, his horse pludged down the steep descent, and he quickly passed out of sight. This was Putnam,” exclaimed the old soldier; and a thrill of youthful ardour ran through his veins whilst he recounted the deeds of valour of that brave man.

The village of St. Catharines is rapidly increasing, and possesses advantages which, in time, will make it a place of considerable business. A small river, called Twelve Mile Creek, passes through this place, and supplies abundance of water for some valuable flour mills. On its margin, salt springs have recently been discovered, which promise much benefit to the surrounding country. Hitherto, the salt consumed in Upper Canada has been brought from the salt works in the state of New-York; and during the late war, this province suffered much for the want of this necessary of life. These springs are now beginning to be worked, and the salt made from them is of a good quality.

A projected canal around the falls of Niagara, so 15 114 as to connect the navigation of Lake Erie with that of Lake Ontario, was beginning to attract attention, and the inhabitants of St. Catharines hoped to have it pass through their village. This is a work that may be easily accomplished. The country above the ridge that forms the falls is level, quite to Lake Erie, and below the slope, a plain spreads itself to the borders of Lake Ontario. The soil is peculiarly adapted for excavation; and the only place where locks would be necessary, is at the point of elevation of the upper country. This ridge is principally composed of

secondary limestone, and the rock, while it might be easily excavated, would afford lasting abutments to support the ponderous weight of the mighty locks. This work must, ere long, be accomplished.

Burlington heights are at the head of Lake Ontario, and form the northern borders of the settlement of Upper Canada. Beyond these heights, towards the north, extends a forest of frigid growth, a perpetual wilderness, which has no other light in winter than the lambent flames of the aurora borealis.

The principles of the government of the Canadas, are deduced from the British constitution. The governor is the representative of the crown. The people are burthened with few taxes, as the whole military and the greater part of the civil authorities are supported by the mother country.

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Great exertions are making to induce settlers to locate themselves in the Canadas. Land is presented to all who wish to become residents; and, in some instances, implements of husbandry and provisions for two years. With all these advantages, settlements progress slowly; nor is this to be attributed to the barrenness of the soil, or the severity of the climate. There is much good land in Upper Canada; and the winter is not more severe than in the western part of New-York. Its markets are even better than those of the interior of the United States. From what cause, it will naturally be inquired, does the slowness of settlement proceed? Does it arise from the palsying influence of monarchical government, or is it to be sought for in the ignorance of the settlers? Both these causes have their influence. The policy of the government excludes, in a great measure, the subjects of other nations from settling here. It is particularly hostile to the American people. The monarch who presides over these northern forests, dreads the luxuriant growth of the germ of liberty.

The Europeans who come here wish to cultivate the soil in the manner they have been accustomed to at home. They are unwilling to exchange the manners and customs of an English farmer, for the experience of an American wood-chopper. They are much more formal in their mode of doing things—and they spend as much time in setting about an undertaking, as we do in its execution.

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A political reformer, by the name of Gourlay, had recently made his appearance in Canada, and the good people of the country were beginning to be politicians. They had hitherto supposed, that to be provided with wholesome laws, and protected by the mother country, was to them a great favour. They were, however, changing their notions, and with the help of Mr. Gourlay, who, by the bye, had not been in America a twelvemonth, they had commenced a political reform. What this reform was to be, I did not precisely understand; but, as is most commonly the case on such occasions, every thing was wrong that had been done, and all that they wish to do would be right.

The crown is possessed of large tracts of land, from which it makes grants to such individuals as it thinks proper; and because all who served in the late war had not received grants, all are not satisfied; and so the Prince Regent, and Sir Peregrine Maitland, and the Duke of Richmond, together with some other somebodies, were all to be petitioned. To accomplish this, Mr. Gourlay was riding through the country, distributing hand-bills, and the like.

It will be a long time before any political change of moment will take place in Canada. The inhabitants can never expect a form of government that will be less expensive than the present one. The wealthy and influential part of the community are, to a great extent, pensioners of the crown, and their feelings and interests are in unison with the will of 117 the mother country. The population is thinly spread over an extensive space of territory; and, unmolested by the government, they will continue to acquire wealth, and cultivate the

arts of peace, until a dense population shall produce great inequality of property, and give room for ambitious men to signalise themselves as the leaders of a revolution.

Upper Canada contains not less than two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, who may be divided in three classes; the Canadians, the emigrants from Europe, and the settlers from the United States. The first of these classes are ignorant and inoffensive beings, who have little or no influence in the country. The second class fills the offices of government, and ape the manners and habits of regal government. The last class, composed of the descendants of those who, during the war of the revolution, espoused the cause of Britain; and who, after the termination of that event, took refuge in the dominions of their king, together with the recent emigrants from the United States, are the most active and enterprising, and will in time, gain a commanding influence over the province.

From the head of Lake Ontario, I returned to the mouth of the Niagara river, and embarked on board the American steam boat Ontario, to descend the lake. On the passage, the boat stopped for a few hours at the mouth of the Genesee river, and likewise at Sacket's Harbour.

Sacket's Harbour is situated at the head of a small 118 bay. It is the naval and military depot of the United States on Lake Ontorio. Here are number of ships of war in ordinary, and one on the Stocks, said to be the largest in the world. She is rated at one hundred and twenty guns, and measures rising twenty-eight hundred tons, which is larger than the famous Santissima Trinidada. She was built under the direction of that accomplished mechanic, Mr. Eckford, and surpasses in beauty and elegance of structure, any ship that I have ever seen. The government have erected a fine range of brick barracks for the accommodation of the troops; and the whole naval and military appearance of the place evinces the good management and martial character of those who had the command.

The town of Sacket's Harbour has been much improved since the war. The streets are well laid out, and there is much neatness in the general appearance of the houses.

Black River empties itself here, and tinges the whole bay with a blackish hue. Its colour is probably owing to the extensive swamps of hemlock through which its waters pass. Fine specimens of indurated carbonate of lime are found in the vicinity of this place, as is likewise petrifactions of various natives of the ocean.

Lake Ontario is a beautiful collection of water, more than four hundred and fifty miles in circumference; its greatest depth has never been ascertained. 119 When drawn from the lake, the water is as limpid as the purest chrystal.

This lake terminates in a vast number of islands; and there are in the St. Lawrence, within forty miles above Ogdensburgh, more than three thousand isles.

Ogdensburgh is situated at the termination of the sloop navigation of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. It contains rising one hundred houses, some of which are finished with much elegance and taste. The British, while it was in their possession, maintained in it a considerable garrison to protect the trade of the St. Lawrence. It is now the capital of St. Lawrence county.

I embarked at Ogdensburgh to descend the St. Lawrence in an open boat of perhaps three tons burthen. It was rowed by four Canadians, who accompanied the motion of the oar with a constant song. The banks of the river are generally low, and the settlements on each side very numerous.. The houses are built of hewn logs, and devoid of taste or elegance. We landed whenever we wished to partake of refreshments, and the inhabitants spoke nothing but Canadian French. I could almost imagine myself in one of the northern provinces of France, where the smooth pronunciation of the French had mingled with the harsher language of the Germans.

There are many rapids in the St. Lawrence between Ogdensburgh and Montreal, some of which 120 are really dangerous; of these, the Long Sault and the Cedars are the principal.

The Long Sault is a deep and narrow channel, nine miles in length, and formed by islands that contract the St. Lawrence. Through this passage the water rushes with the impetuosity of a flood rolling onwards with broken waves, which, as far as the eye can extend, burst upon each other, and cover the stream with a white and troubled sprey. We were carried down it at the rate of twenty miles, the hour, and the continued noise and motion of the water produced emotions grand and sublime.

The Cedars is the most difficult rapid of the St. Lawrence; and the most experienced pilots never approach them without apprehensions of danger. The river, for three miles, rushes with irresistible fury down a winding declivity, and recoils in tumultuous waves from the rocks that form the bottom of the river. As we entered the rapid, the sun was fast setting behind the western hills, and gilded with his rays the white foam of the curling seas. The song of the oarsmen was instantly hushed, and each, with anxious eyes, watched the motions of the pilot who guided the helm. The rocks were distinctly visible beneath the flood, and some of them almost reached the surface of the water. It was a moment of anxious dread, lest we should fall upon them. The boat was constantly receiving water over her bow, and every recoiling 121 sea threatened us with a watery grave. At length we almost leaped over a sudden pitch that terminates the rapids, and the fiver soon became an smooth. The oars gilded the water, and the song of the oarsmen broke the silence of the night; star after star became visible, and as twilight vanished the whole canopy of heaven became studded with these suns of other worlds.

Who could view such scenes as these without emotion? What a display of the power and goodness of him who made the world! The mind just now harrrowed up from its inmost recesses, and looking around in wild dismay, now looks calmly on with admiration and delight. The rapids produced the emotions of terror, whilst the heavens created the sensations of sublimity. Every thing around me proclaimed, “a God, a God is here.”

Little attention has hitherto been paid toward improving the navigation of the river St. Lawrence. Those who exercise the government of the Canadas, are either too ignorant

or too indolent to investigate the real interests of the country over which they preside. The navigation of the St. Lawrence, which is now dangerous and expensive, might with ease be made safe and expeditious. This river is formed by a succession of small lakes, which are connected together of small lakes, which are connected together by streights interspersed with islands, between which the water rushes with great impetuosity. Some of these lakes are from fifteen to twenty 16 122 miles in width. The banks of the St. Lawrence are low, and locks and canals might be constructed around the rapids at a small expense.

The charges for transportation on any commodity from the foot of Lake Erie to Montreal, are very great. From a barrel of flour, they are not less than two dollars; and yeat one million of dollars judiciously expended, would lessen the expense at least one half. The navigation of the St. Lawrence above Montreal, terminates at La Chine, only nine miles from the city.

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CHAPTER V.

Montreal—Notre Dame—Convents—Nuns—College—Mount Real—Trade and Population —Passage to Quebec, &c.

The island of Montreal, upon which stands a city of the same name, is twenty-eight miles in length, and about fourteen in breadth. It divides the Fiver. It divides the river St. Lawrence into two parts, the one of which passes on the south east side of the island, and forms the principal channel. The construction of a canal from Montreal to La Chine, would be a very easy undertaking.

An enterprise once embarked in the early settlement of Canada, from La Chine, to find a passage to China, and from this circumstance the name is derived.

Opposite to this place is a large town of Indians, who have embraced the Catholic faith. They have a church richly decorated, and in matters of faith they obey implicitly the

dictates of their priests; whilst in other respects, they resemble the savage of the forest. The civilization of the Indians is an interesting subject of inquiry, and one which will be investigated in the third part of this work.

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Montreal is situated at the head of the ship navigation of the St. Lawrence, in north latitude 43 degrees and 40 minutes, and more than 70 degrees of west longitude from London. It is little less than two hundred miles east north-east of Lake Ontario, and five hundred miles from the ocean.

That part of Montreal contiguous to the river, is elevated but a few feet above it, whilst the ground rises with a gradual ascent towards the centre of the city.

There are a number of public edifices, worthy the attention of a stranger; among these may be mentioned, the Convents, the Notre Dame Church, the Seminary, the College, and some others. I visited them all, and, for the first time in my life, saw the pageantry and show of the Romish religion. I could fancy to myself all the images of the writers of other times; and the deep-toned bell, the vaulted halls, and the consecrated altars, of which I had read so much, rushed in quick succession upon my mind.

The church of Notre Dame is a fine Gothic edifice. I was conducted through it by a priest, who seemed sedulous to display the pageantry of his religion. The paintings of saints that adorned the walls, and the altar, with the crucified Saviour extended on the cross, struck me with a kind of religious reverence for the place. I was next shown the wardrobe of the priests, and closet after closet were thrown open, containing dresses suited to the various orders that 125 officiate at the altar. Fine lawn, trimmed with the richest lace, and the best of sattin, embossed with heavy gold, representing various scripture images, were, in succession, presented to my view. From thence I was conducted to the Seminary, a heavy pile of building fitted up for the residence of the priests. A number of miserable beings

were attending at the gate, to receive an absolution from their sins, whilst others were making their confessions in hall, before the Holy Father.

We next went to the Convents, and I was permitted to see some of the private apartments of these world-secluded women. I was charmed with the neatness of the appearance of the nuns, whilst their long waisted gowns and wide spreading petticoats, brought to my mind the recollection of ancient dames. The head was bound round with a white fillet, over which a black veil was loosely thrown. I conversed freely with some of them, and very complacently inquired of one, what were her motives for secluding herself from the world, and abandoning that society which she once held dear. She replied, with a mingled smile and frown, “I live here for God's sake.” She was a fine looking girl, not much older than myself; tall, fair complexion, with mild, dark blue eyes; her form was elegant, and she moved with dignity and grace.

There are two Monasteries—that of the Recollects, 126 and, of the Sisters of Notre Dame. There is an hospital attached to both of them; and these pious women spend a part of their time in administering to the wants of the sick. In one of them there is a nursery for foundlings; and these secluded females perform a part of the duty they owe to the world, by becoming the nurses of the children of others.

I was next conducted through the college, an edifice sufficiently capacious to accommodate three hundred students. It might, with more propriety, be called a school for the education of children; for such is the description of the students, and their course of studies is calculated for youth of minor age. The reading of languages occupies the principal part of the time of the boy who is educated here. The regulations and government of the college, although different in many respects from that of similar institutions in the United States, are well calculated for the age and character of those who compose its members. It is hardly necessary to mention, that this is a Catholic institution. There is an extensive library belonging to the college, composed of classic authors, and of the writings of the leading clergy of the church of Rome. It has likewise, a small philosophic apparatus,

and also a few specimens of natural curiosities. The students wear a uniform dress, the most prominent part of which, is a 127 surtout, bound round the waist with a sash. The expenses of students at this school, are very inconsiderable; and in this respect the instructors have copied from the example of the universities on the continent of Europe, in preference to the extravagance of English colleges.

There was a single regiment of soldiers in Montreal at the time I visited it. A fine military parade ground is in the rear of the city, and on Sunday, at the close of the day, a military review of the troops takes place on this ground, which forms alike a promenade for the citizens, and a place for military evolutions. The word of command was given by the sound of the bugle, and by the mere variations of its notes, the troops had been taught the charge or retreat, to form or display columns, and in short, to go through the whole round of military manœuvres. A company of light infantry, that belonged to the regiment, mistook the bugle's sound, and instead of advancing as they should have done, commenced their flight, which they continued, until arrested by the colonel who pursued them, and with tremendous oaths and imprecations, reprimanded Captain Long, the commander of the company. Adjoining this parade ground, was a large field, thickly over-grown with thistles, which were from three to six feet in height. The colonel ordered Long and his men into this field, where they were corrected by the 128 curses of the colonel and the thorns of the thistle, for a mistake, which, if it had been committed in battle, might have decided the fortune of the day.

Mount Real, the summit of which is elevated four hundred and fifty feet above the surrounding plains, is in the vicinity of the city. From the top of this mountain, a lovely landscape is displayed to view. The distant mountains of Chambley and Sorelle appeared in the horizon on the south east side of the St. Lawrence, which, chequered with many islands, glides in a broad sheet towards the distant ocean. On either side of this majestic river, plains are extended which are made doubly beautiful, by being covered with little groupes of French chatteaux, surrounded with fields of rich and gay herbage, that often delighted the traveller upon the St. Lawrence. The city of Montreal, with its glittering roofs

of tin, emblazoned by a western sun, and the summer seats of wealth and ease on the adjacent hills, heightened the beauty of the scene, whilst the bustle of men and the hum of business before my eyes, added life and animation to nature's charms.

The population of Montreal has greatly increased a few years, and it is now not less than twenty-two thousand. It is composed of the descendants of the French, who first settled the counter; of Scoth and English, who have come hither either as officers of government, or to acquire wealth 129 and of a few natives of the states, who have recently located themselves here for commercial purposes. The French are the most numerous. They are grossly ignorant, and place implicit obedience in the commands of their priests, who are, in some respects, a praiseworthy people.

The commerce of Montreal is very considerable. It has been increased much of late years in consequence of the settlement of the country bordering on the waters that form the St. Lawrence. Formerly its trade consisted principally in peltry and lumber. There are now large quantities of ashes, flour, beef and pork, brought here annually from the northern parts of the United States, and from Upper Canada. This part of the trade of Montreal will, however, soon cease to increase; and may even be diminished. The connecting link that is now forming between the great lakes and the waters of the Hudson will turn the current of trade to New-York, which no exertions on the part of the English can prevent. There are many small items that enter into the estimates and calculations of merchants, which, operate decidedly against Montreal. Amongst these, the expense of transportation, the risk of loss, and the delay of arriving to a market, as well as many others, might be inumerated.

The fur trade, which has been so vigorously pursued by the North West Company, established 17 130 at Montreal in 1783, will likewise suffer much from the fur companies in the United States, in whose territories the English have purchased much peltry; but a more full detail of this subject belongs properly to the third part of this work.

The colonial system of the English government is in full force in Canada. This is a part of the English policy which is often spoken of by those who, perhaps, do not precisely understand its principles or effects. It is explained in few words:—The mother country requires that every commodity taken to her colonies shall be first landed in England, and afterwards be reshipped for the country where it is to be consumed. This law extends not only to the productions of foreign nations, but likewise to the growth and products of the different English colonies. On being landed in the mother country, if it is intended for re-exportation, it is entered in bond; and provided it is re-exported, the duties which would otherwise have had to be paid, are liquidated in the form of a drawback, and only a small export duty demanded. Hence many commodities raised in France, Spain, or any other nation, are often furnished to the colonies at a less price than they command at home. The advantage that the English government derive from this measure, is the giving employment to a vast number of subjects at home; it likewise preserves in the mother country 131 a vast amount of mercantile capital, which otherwise would be transported to the colonies. I will not enter into a discussion of the propriety of this policy, any farther than to remark, that if the colonies of England *must* be her dependants, it is a system alike advantageous to both.

Large fortunes have been acquired in Montreal in a short time. Until the late peace, there was little competition in business in this place. The language of the country being dissimilar to that of those who had the dominion of it, and the little that was known of the commerce of the Canadas excluded adventurers, in a great measure, from locating themselves there. The principal merchants are Scotch, who, in the true character of their countrymen abroad, transact their business with little bustle, but always insist upon receiving large profits.

I left Montreal in a steam boat for Quebec, and, aided by a strong current, passed in rapid succession the varying objects on either shore, which, at the distance of every four miles, are adorned with chateaux and chapels.

The St. Lawrence frequently expands itself into considerable lakes; that of St. Peter is nearly twenty miles in breadth. The tide, which at Quebec rises twenty feet, never flows above this lake. The current of the river, in many places, is very strong; and below Three Rivers, where the bed of the river is lined with rocks, there is a place 132 called, by seamen; the Hell-Gate of the St. Lawrence.

The town of Sorelle is situated forty miles below Montreal, at the confluence of the river Chamblee and the St. Lawrence. The Sorelle, another name for the Chamblee, is formed by the water of Lake Champlain. It is navigable for rafts from its source; and large quantities of lumber are annually floated down it from those parts of the states of New-York and Vermont which border upon the Champlain.

The connection that is now formed between Lake Champlain and the Hudson will bring to New-York much of the produce which has hitherto enriched the trade of Quebec; and the town of Sorelle will likewise be affected by it.

Berthier, at which place I stopped in ascending the river, is situated nearly opposite to Sorelle. The country in its vicinity is superior to any on the St. Lawrence. The river at this place is interspersed with a number of productive islands, which at this season of the year are clothed with rich pasture. They are shaded by the maple and other forest trees, among which grazing cattle give life and animation to the scenery.

Three Rivers is situated on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, at nearly an equal distance from Montreal and Quebec. It is the third town in size in Lower Canada. A small river of the 133 same name empties itself at this place into the St. Lawrence. The town extends a mile along the banks of the latter river. It contains a Convent of Ursulines, which was founded by a Bishop of Quebec, for the education of children, and an asylum for the sick. I obtained liberty from the priest to visit it; but the holy matron, who met me at the door, excused herself from conducting me through it, by saying, that the Recluse were engaged in a manner that forbad the admission of strangers.

Sixty miles above Quebec the banks of the river change their aspect, and commence a gradual elevation almost perpendicular from the river, and they continue to rise quite to Quebec. The villages on the banks of the river were out of sight, but falling cascades, pouring over the summits of the cliffs, add to the variety of the scenery.

At length Cape Diamond, with its proud tower, looking down upon the city, and the river, appeared in the distant horizon. As the boat approached nearer and nearer, the outlines of the summit became distinct; and at last, the shipping in the river were opened to the view. I was about to land in a city of heroic deeds and of martial renown—a place of battlements and towers—a military fortress, where human invention has spared no pains to render nature's bulwarks doubly strong.

CHAPTER VI.

Quebec—Trade—Military Events—Fortifications—Falls of Montmorency—Soldiers—Emigration—St. Johns—General View of Canada.

The city of Quebec is divided into two parts; the upper and lower town. The lower town extends in a single street for more than a mile. It is formed partly by cutting away the rock that commences the elevation of the upper town, and partly by filling in the margin of the river. With the exception of the retail trade, the commercial business of the city is transacted in the lower town.

The trade of Quebec, which is very extensive consists in transacting foreign business. It has little support from the surrounding country, but it relies upon its mighty river, the ocean, the wilds of America, and the work-shops of England for its support.

The navigation of the St. Lawrence for ships since the introduction of steam boats, may, in a mercantile point of view, be considered as terminating at Quebec. Hither vast quantities of lumber are floated down, the Otewas, the St. Lawrence, the Sorelle, and many other

smaller rivers, to be shipped to supply the wants of the mistress island. From this place also, are shipped the furs that are caught near the 135 Lake of the Wood, or the head of the Mississippi, as is also the case with the flour and the ashes that are manufactured on the borders of Lakes Erie and Ontario. Here, too, ships come, which, after having circumnavigated the globe to procure the teas and silks of China and the spices of India, enter the ports of England to acknowledge her sovereignty, and then cross the Atlantic to be unladen at Quebec.

The number of ships that arrive here yearly from England, vary from six to seven hundred. They are generally from four hundred to one thousand tons burthen. Vessels seldom perform more than one voyage from England to Quebec in a year, and they generally arrive at the latter place in June and July, and sail again in August and September.

The difficulty for large vessels to ascend the St. Lawrence to Montreal is so great, that instances have been known of two vessels sailing from Quebec at the same time—one bound to Montreal, and the other to Europe, and back again, and the latter ship to perform her voyage in a shorter period of time than the former.

The river St. Lawrence, if I mistake not, is navigable for large ships a greater distance from the ocean than any river on this globe.

There is no place in America, the name of which is more familiar to every one than Quebec. From the earliest youth we have heard of its strength, and of the hard-fought battles that have been before it. 136 The names of those who have fallen at its walls have been handed down to posterity with a kind of heroic veneration. I visited the place from which the remains of General Montgomery had been only a few days before removed, and reflected upon the bold attempt that sacrificed his life.

The history of the expedition that attacked Quebec in 1775 is so unlike any other of modern times, that we almost believe ourselves to be reading the fanciful adventures of the heroes of chivalry. The immense wilderness through which they marched, the

privations and sufferings that they underwent, together with the rigour of a northern winter, astonish us at the undertaking, whilst we sympathize at the fate of these brave men.

The plains of Abraham possess nearly the same interest; and when we look back to the conquest of Canada, we lose sight of our separation from Britain, and mingle in the pride and glory of the achievement. I stood near the place where Wolf expired; and looking over the plain, imagined the spot where Montcalm struggled in the agonies of death. The blood of the slain has enriched the soil, and the place where hostile armies once were, is now adorned with the richest verdure.

What has become of those men who, on the 13th of September, 1759, advanced to this plain, to mingle in the clash of arms? What were the motives that led them hither, and what must have been their 137 hopes and fears? How did the minds of Wolf and Montcalm struggle within them, as they advance at the head of their respective armies, to that field where, in a few hours, both were to mingle with the slain. It was that secret subtle, process of the mind, the love of fame, that urged them onward.

The upper town of Quebec rises from the rivers St. Lawrence and St. Charles (a small stream that empties itself into the St. Lawrence on the north-east side of the city) nearly three hundred feet. It is surrounded by a wall two miles in circumference, which varies in height from fifteen to thirty feet, according to the situation of the ground, and the natural facilities for attacking the city. There are three entrances into the town through this wall, by means of massive gates, that are defended by narrow defiles in the strongest manner. It would require fifteen thousand men to garrison Quebec in case of a siege.

Cape Diamond, the summit of the promontory on which Quebec is situated, rises abruptly near three hundred feet above the river. It is fortified in the strongest manner, with a tower, batteries, and walls. Indeed, the fortifications of Quebec exceeded my highest expectations.

From the top of this precipice, the most delightful landscape presents itself to the eye of the spectator. The mountains on the northeast, stretching to Cape Tournament—the parishes of Beauport, Ange, Gardien and Chateau Recher, Point Levi, and the island 18 138 of Orleans, together with the city, river, and its shipping, give a rich variety of scenery, and-produce the most lively effect.

There are charms in the scenery of the north in the summer, unknown to a southern climate. The richness of the verdure, the rapid growth of vegetation, the deep shade of the foliage, together with the reflection of the fast approach of winter, give an interest and a charm to all around.

The plains of Abraham are without the city, and extend two miles along the banks of the St. Lawrence. They are as much elevated as the summit of the city. A tower is erected on the side of them nearest the city, which is connected to the town by means of a subterranean passage. Opposite to the city, on the south-east side of the river, is Point Levi three hundred feet above the river. This eminence overlooks Quebec. The St. Lawrence is more than a mile in width, and I shall leave it to military men to decide how far Point Levi might be used to advantage in case of an attack on Quebec.

The city and suburbs contain not less than eighteen thousand inhabitants, who vary little in character from those of Montreal.

This place is the capital of the Canadas, and the residence of the Governor General, and other public officers.

It was garrisoned by about two thousand men, at the time I visited it. A regiment of infantry, composed 139 of men selected from the disbanded regiments, made the most martial appearance that I ever saw. Many of them had been in the battle of Waterloo. There was likewise a regiment of artillery, the history of which was highly interesting. It was composed of a medley collection of every nation and tongue in Europe. They had

formerly belonged to the French army, and, after having plundered all Europe, were captured in Spain, and led prisoners to the cells of Dartmoor prison. Napoleon refused an exchange of prisoners with the English, and these men readily accepted an offer to enter the British service. They were first sent to the West-Indies, and after being seasoned to that climate, were transferred to the cold regions of the north. What man could suffer, they had suffered; and now seemed to have acquired the character of the junk beef that Lord Anson carried around the world, and which is preserved in the British Museum—the quality of lasting forever.

The Falls of Montmorenci, at the mouth of a river of the same name, are nine miles northeast of Quebec. The river, after passing through a broken country, and exhibiting a variety of interesting rapids, tumbles over a rock two hundred and forty feet in height, in huge volumes of falling foam. When viewed from the top of the cliff, the effect is peculiarly sublime. The profound depth of the abyss—the continued hollow noise of the falling water reverberating 140 from the gulf below—the clouds of sprey that continually pass off from the falling foam, exhibiting various prismatic colours, produce the most lively emotions.

The fall is about one hundred feet in breadth; the rock is composed of limestone and slate, with here and there a mixture of gypsum.

From Quebec, I ascended the river to Montreal. The steam boats used on the St. Lawrence are intended for carrying freight as well as passengers; and they are likewise so arranged as to accommodate persons either in the cabin or steerage. The steerage passengers are allotted the fore part of the boat, and are not allowed to visit the stern. The cabins are very comfortable, and the accommodations far superior to what is usually, met with in American boats. This remark will certainly be found true, if every traveller is as well provided for as I was.

The cabin was not crowded; and the passengers, from their diversity of character, were not a little interesting. Among them, were two Catholic clergymen, who had been on a visit

to Quebec to confer with their brethren on some spiritual business connected with their church. They conversed in French, with affability and ease, and were communicative to all who courted their society. It happened that a part of the passage was on Friday, a day that prohibits the pious Catholic from eating flesh, although he may feast 141 his appetite on the inhabitants of the sea. The steward of the boat had among other good things, provided for Friday's Friday dinner some salmon trout. They are, perhaps, the most delicious fish that are eaten; and our pious companions helped themselves at the table with such an abundance of this delicacy, that the palates of the other passengers had to be satisfied with having the fish eaten with holy mouths, or dining upon less humiliating food; but as I am never in danger of starving when roast beef or boiled mutton is placed before me, I finished my dinner with a better zest than a fellow countryman, who, besides his love of fish, had no small dislike to the creed of our reverend companions. A good pudding followed the meat, and at the end of this, almonds, and raisins, and currants, came along, and my countryman at one moment looked askance at the gentlemen with the crucifix, whilst at the next, he smiled to the steward. some good wine, however, buried the fish in oblivion, and nothing more was heard of the salmon trout. Liquors of every kind, except brandy, are procured, of a better quality, and at a smaller price, in Canada, than in the United States. At the Mansion House in Montreal, a hotel equal to any in America, I was charged two dollars the bottle for Madeira, and a less price for Port.

The steerage was crowded with passengers. They were principally Welch emigrants, who had recently arrived from Europe, and who were bound to the 142 upper province, to locate themselves in parts they knew not where. Great numbers of emigrants have arrived in the Canadas since the peace. England, groaning under the load of a thousand different weights, leaves no method unessayed to rid herself of the burthen. Her poor and wretched population are shipped off to every clime to seek new homes, or, as is more commonly the case, to die with famine, with disease, or with broken and dejected minds. The remnant of her powerful army is scattered to the four quarters of the globe to be disbanded and to amalgamate themselves with foreign troops, or to prey upon that society on which they are

let loose. More than ten thousand soldiers have been transported to British North America since the war, who have been disbanded, and they are now wandering through the new world, without hope and without friends, and sighing to be again embodied in the armies of Europe.

A ship was lying in the port of Quebec, that had sailed from home with seven hundred souls on board; nearly one half of which had, during the passage, taken their flight to the world of spirits. She was represented to me as presenting the most loathsome spectacle. The passengers lived between decks as in a sty; their food, disease—their medicine, death—their winding sheet, filthy rags, and their tombs briny waves. No hospital was prepared for the relief of those who survived on their arrival, 143 but they were hurried away in the first conveyance to the interior of the country.

The current in the river, immediately below Montreal, is so great, that the steam-boat could not reach the city, without assistance from the shore. This was soon provided; and by means of a tow-rope, drawn by three yoke Of oxen we arrived at the town. Those who selected the spot on which Montreal is built, literally obeyed their instructions, which were to find the head of the ship navigation of the river

From Montreal, I crossed the river to take stage for St. Johns, at the outlet of Lake Champlain. I landed at Longuil,, a little village nearly opposite Montreal, and at three in the afternoon, placed myself in a comfortable stage, well filled with passengers. The first seven miles of our road ran along the banks of the river, which brought us to La Prairie, a considerable town; at which place passengers, in approaching Montreal, embark in batteaux, and with the assistance of the current of the river, are quickly landed in the city.

From La Prairie to St. Johns, a distance of twenty miles, the country is level, and the soil for the most part of poor quality. The whole distance is, however, thickly inhabited, and the land in a high state of cultivation.

Travelling this distance, I could not but reflect on much of the country over which I had passed. Supposing 144 the theory to be true, that the Ridge road on the southern shore of Lake Ontario was once the margin of that lake, where must its waters then have flowed? The answer to this question can only be given by an actual survey, which, perhaps, might produce a curious result. So far as I could measure with my eye, if Lake Ontario were to be elevated to a level with the Ridge road, the banks of the St. Lawrence could not contain its waters. The country between La Prairie and St. Johns must have been sunk “many a fathom down deep in the wave,” and Lake Champlain, united with Lake Ontario, formed a vast sea, the waters of which might have flowed to the ocean alike through the mouths of those mighty rivers, the St. Lawrence and the Hudson. The science of this country would be greatly advanced by a minute, mathematical, and geological survey of this highly interesting section of our continent. The attempts that have hitherto been made to give professed scientific descriptions of our country are, for the most part, loose, vague and inaccurate, and they rather direct the traveller who takes them for a companion, to the path of error than Of truth. Individual wealth alone can never accomplish what is wanting on this subject. Public munificence, or the influence of government, must be exerted for the accomplishment of this object.

The population of Lower Canada is above four hundred thousand. It was settled by the French 145 near two centuries ago, and the character and manners of the inhabitants have undergone change. They are nearly the same that the peasantry of France were at the commencement of the reign of Louis the Fifteenth—temperate, lazy and ignorant; they obey implicitly the of their priests. Where their fathers lived they dwell, and perhaps there is no country where the manners the people have been handed down, from father to son, with less variation than here; and he who wishes to study what were the manners and customs of the French before illuminism kindled its flame, will find a better place for that purpose in Canada, shanin than is France. The Canadians have escaped the revolution and of infidelity. Whether in this respect they have been gainers or not, may be justty questioned. They have not improved even in their method of cultivating the soil, and

their ploughs and carts are made after the same model that gave form to the first of these useful contrivances in the country

The soil of Lower Canada is held by tenure, after the manner of ancient France; a certain proportion of its products is paid annually to the Seignior, who lords it over his little clan. Such are the great outlines of the Canadas.

St. Johns is an old French town, situated on the west side of the river Sorelle, at the termination of its 19 146 navigation for large boats on Lake Champlain. The town contains near two hundred houses, and a mixed population of French, English and Americans. Here is an old fort still standing, in which a small number of troops are generally stationed.

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CHAPTER VII.

Isle au Noix—Lake—Champlain—Plattsburgh—Ticonderoga—Lake George—Caldwell—Saratoga—Ballston—Schenectady—Albany—Conclusion.

At St. Johns, I embarked on board the steam boat Phenix, to ascend Lake Champlain. Tide waiters, excise men, and the other appendages of government that are always found on the frontiers of every civilized nation, witnessed our departure. Little scrutiny was, however, practised by them, and I found myself on board of a good vessel, with a polite captain, who felt disposed to render every attention that the comfort or pleasure of his passengers might require.

The Isle an Noix is a few miles above St. Johns, and commands the navigation of the river. It is just within the dominions of Canada, and the British have erected upon it considerable fortifications. As we passed this place, the wind breezed from the south, and the British lion that waved from the flag-staff, turned his head towards his own dominions, emblematical of the defeat that he had sustained upon the waters of the lake that we were about to enter.

On entering Lake Champlain, we were boarded by a revenue officer of the United States, and the baggage of the passengers underwent the scrutiny of this man of power. He was, however, polite in the execution of his duty, and when he came to a small 148 trunk of mineralogical specimens that belonged to myself, on being told its contents, he tried its weight, and then remarked that specie or stones might be, brought into the United States, alike duty free.

Lake Champlain is one hundred and twenty miles in length, and varies in width from six to twenty-five miles. Its waters are turbid and shallow; and its banks in some places low and marshy, whilst in others they form almost perpendicular cliffs. The country on either side is beginning to be cultivated, and towns are here and there spread along. Burlington, one of the principal places in Vermont, is situated on the cast shore of Champlain. The ground upon which it is built rises with considerable ascent immediately from the lake, and the town may contain three hundred houses. The Green Mountains of Vermont could be seen distinctly from the lake, with ridge rising after ridge, made green in some places by the foliage of trees, and in others, where the forests have been removed, clothed with wheat fields, ripe for the sickle or the scythe.

The country that surrounds Lake Champlain and Lake George, is highly interesting. It has been the scene of more historical events than any other part of America, find and the wildness of the country is peculiarly calculated add to the emotions which are produced by their remembrance.

In the early settlement of this country, Lake Champlain was the highway to Canada, and in the 149 war in which it was conquered by the English, it was the theatre of continual action. During the revolution, it possessed no less interest; and in the more recent war with Britain, it witnessed a proud triumph over the mistress of the ocean. On the passage up it, the steam boat stopped at Plattsburgh, and in passing by Cumberland Head, the laconic letter of the brave Macdonough came to my recollection—“The Almighty has been pleased

to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain, in the capture of one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war of the enemy."

The attack on Plattsburgh by the British during the late war, is marked in its result by those peculiar and striking characteristics that distinguish American warfare from that of every other nation. The militia of our country, unaccustomed to battle, met on even ground a regular disciplined army, exceeding by one half the number of themselves, and triumphed over the foe. Were it not for the strongest evidence of the truth of the accounts of the victories of Plattsburgh and of Orleans in the last war, and many of those that occurred in the war of the revolution, they would be read as fabulous history, where fiction makes brave men conquer giants. The British army, when it attacked Plattsburgh, consisted of at least 12,000 men: they were opposed by not more than 1,500 regular troops, and double that number of 150 militia; yet, beaten and vanquished, the enemy fled—and had not the sound of the bugle that ordered the retreat at the dawn of day, been taken for an order to renew the attack, the army of Sir George Provost might have had to surrender prisoners of war to the sons of those sires, who, less than forty years before, in the neighbourhood of this very place, captured the haughty Burgoyne.

The militia of the United States fight for the defence of their homes and their firesides—their wives and their children, with a courage and valour that no mercenary soldiers can withstand. Disregarding the slow and formal manœuvres of regular troops, where the weight and momentum of solid bodies is relied upon to decide the fortune of a battle, they exercise individual prowess and single valour. They load their guns for execution, and they never take aim without marking a victim. So long as the militia of this country continue to fight, when called upon by invasion, they may bid defiance to the armies and the discipline of Europe.

"The fortress of Ticonderoga, so often mentioned in the history of American wars, is now a heap of ruins, though many of the walls are so entire as to exhibit proofs of the excellency of their construction, and of the plan of the works. It was built by the French in 1756, on

a point of land formed by the junction of Lake George Creek with Lake Champlain, in north latitude 43 degrees 50 minutes, and 34 minutes east longitude from New-York. The 151 name is derived to us from the Indians, Frenchified—signifying *noisy* Che-on-der-oga; probably in allusion to the water. But the French called it Fort Carillon. It was a place of great strength, both by nature and art. On three sides it is surrounded by water, and about half of the other side is occupied by a deep swamp, while the line of defence was completed by the French, with the erection of a breastwork nine feet high, on the only assailable ground. In 1758, General Abercrombie, with the British army, assailed this fortress, and was defeated, July 9, with the loss of 1,941 men; but it was surrendered to General Amherst in July of the following year. It was taken by surprise by Colonel Allen, May 10, 1775, being the first fortress carried by the arms of America, in the war that established our independence; and retained till July, 1777, when it was evacuated on the approach of General Burgoyne with the British army. Mount Independence, often mentioned in connexion with Ticonderoga, lies on the east side of the lake, about two miles south-east of that fort, between which places there is a well-regulated ferry. Mountains, plains, rivers, lakes—the mouldering ruins of the monuments of war—the reminiscence of historic importance, and the interest which those recollections excite,—all combine to fix and deeply engage the attention of travellers on a visit to Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and the fortresses of this region."

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Seated on the decayed walls of Ticonderoga, which, like the remains of those who fell before it, have become almost obliterated by the lapse of time, I looked upon the lake, and saw the wings of commerce unfolded to the breeze, where once the rude canoe of the savage merely ruffled the surface of the water. Over the cultivated plains that border on the lake, I traced the devious paths of its first explorers, and fancied I heard the war-whoop of their former savage possessors.

Mount Defiance, which is situated between Lake Champlain and Lake George, overlooks Ticonderoga; and should the fate of revolution and of war give to Lake Champlain the

interest that it once possessed, Mount Defiance would form the commanding point of the lake.

From Ticonderoga, I crossed to the foot of Lake George, a distance of only three miles. At the outlet of this lake, there are a number of falls and rapids, that form excellent situations for mills. Large quantities of lumber are annually sent to market from this vicinity.

At this place, I embarked on board a steam boat to ascend Lake George to its head, a distance of twenty-five miles. This lake is a deep and pure collection of water, surrounded on every side with lofty and rugged mountains, covered to their summits with towering pines, whose deep shades spread themselves on the surface of the lake. A number of places 153 along the shores were pointed out to me, that had been, in former days, the scenes of savage cruelty and horrid barbarity.

Caldwell, a small village of fifty houses, is situated at the head of the lake. This is a place of considerable resort for those who visit the springs of Ballston and Saratoga. The scenery of the adjacent country is highly picturesque; the woods abound with game, and the lake with fish, and those who are made wretched by the want of knowing how to employ their time, may, in the vicinity of Lake George, wait a few days as agreeably as in any part of our country.

There are, in the vicinity of this place, the remains of Fort William Henry and of Fort George. They are now heaps of ruins, and like Ticonderoga, serve only as monuments to remind the traveller that the place he is viewing has been the scene of hard fought battles.

When I visited the ruins of Fort George, they were enlivened by a party of pleasure; and in the place of war-worn soldiers, youth, beauty, and gayety smiled upon the ruins; and where the clang of arms was once heard, lovers now walked and smiled in fond delight.

From this place, General Abercrombie embarked on the fifth of July, 1758, at the head of fifteen thousand men, in more than one thousand boats, to advance to the attack of

Ticonderoga, and to this 20 154 place he returned, after having been defeated, with the loss of Lord Howe and two thousand men.

On leaving Fort George, a small pond was shown me, the waters of which had once been tinged with blood in a savage contest, and it retains to this day a name derived from this occurrence.

The country to the south of Lake George, is composed of a thin sandy soil for some miles, and inhabited by a spare population, whose principal employment is preparing lumber for market.

I crossed the Hudson river at Glen's Falls. At this place the river is a small stream, pouring over a ledge of lime-stone rocks in a beautiful cascade, which has worn numerous holes and caverns in the rock. There are a number of mills erected in the vicinity, and a good bridge is thrown across, the river. A flourishing village is situated near the falls, and within three miles is the village of Sandy-Hill.

Saratoga, alike famous for the military events that have taken place in its vicinity, and for the mineral waters with which it abounds, is twenty miles from Lake George, and thirty-eight from the city of Albany. It was within the borders of this town, that General Burgoyne surrendered his whole army to the invincible yeomanry of the country, and the events that have taken place in the surrounding regions, occupy no small place in the page of history.

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The mineral waters of Ballston and Saratoga, are the most celebrated of any in America. They are spread over a space of country, twelve miles in extent. The different springs vary in the qualities of their waters, and are known by various names, derived generally from their locality. The Congress Spring is the most celebrated, and its waters are said to possess greater medical virtues than those of any other fountain. They are a strong chalybeate, and highly charged with carbonic acid gas. The country around is of secondary formation, and its surface gently undulating. In the vicinity of these springs,

extensive accommodations are provided for those who may visit them, either for health or pleasure; and they are the most fashionable summer resort in America.

Ballston Spa is eight miles from Saratoga. Formerly the springs at this place were the principal resort, but of late years, those of Saratoga have attracted the most attention. The accommodations at both of these places, either for bathing or drinking the waters, are very complete; and when I visited them the past summer, there was every thing to be found in their vicinity, that could make life agreeable.

Ballston is the capital of Saratoga county. It is a pleasant village, and the land in its vicinity is productive. There are a number of ponds or small lakes at no great distance, which afford fine fishing for those who are fond of this cruel amusement.

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From Ballston I took the route to Albany that passes through the city of Schenectady, which is situated at nearly an equal distance from the two places. It is built on the south side of the Mohawk river, at the termination of its navigation, before it unites with the Hudson. This noble river rises in the north-west part of the state of New-York, and after passing through and fertilizing rich vallies, unites itself with the North River, near two hundred miles from the ocean. In the early settlement of the country that borders upon the Mohawk, this river was extensively used for the transportation of the various commodities that the wants of society require. It is now, however, of much less utility, and the various excellent roads that intersect the country, have rendered transportation on the river less frequent. There is a fine bridge over it at Schenectady, one thousand feet in length, built in the most substantial manner.

Schenectady is one of the oldest towns in the state. It was built by the Dutch, and their descendants occupy it to the present time.

In its first settlement, it suffered much from the depredations of hostile savages, and, in the year 1670, it was pilaged and burnt by a party of Indians and French, and nearly the whole of its inhabitants massacred.

The city contains about five thousand inhabitants. 157 but its population will never, in all probability, be increased beyond its present number.

Union College is located at this place. The buildings which are appropriated for its use, are near the banks of the Mohawk, below the city. The ground on which they are situated is considerably elevated, and the landscape presented to view is seldom exceeded. The river, winding through rich meadows, bordered by fine cultivated fields—the city and the distant forests, which have yet to yield to the industry of the husbandman—appear at one view.

Albany, the seat of government of the state of New-York, is built on the west side of the Hudson river, one hundred and forty-five miles north of the city of New-York. It is at the head of the tide water of the Hudson, and the navigation of the river, for vessels of one hundred tons, terminates here.

To a stranger, on first entering the city, Albany has the appearance of being unpleasant. The ground on which it is built is very uneven, and the mixture of English and Dutch taste, in the style of the houses, and the equally unconnected plan of the city, produce a disunion of ideas that I have never experienced in any other place.

The situation of this place was originally selected by the Dutch in about the year 1610, as a trading post with the Indians; and a fort was erected near the margin of the river, sufficiently strong to resist the 158 means of assault which the natives at that time possessed. It was then called Fort Orange, by which name it was known until the English took possession of it in 1655, when it received its present name, in compliment to its proprietor.

As commercial place, Albany is highly important. It has indeed suffered much since the peace, in common with the rest of the commercial world; but the advantages that it enjoys will continue its mercantile greatness, and Albany may rise to be one of the largest cities in the union. Its connection with the trade of one fourth of the United States will be established when the western canal is completed, and the external trade of the fairest portion of America will pass through the hands of the merchants of this place and of New-York. Much discussion has recently taken place, and many plans have been suggested, for deepening the water in the river below the city, so as to render it navigable for ships. Should this object ever be accomplished, the expected advantages from it would never be realized. The Hudson is too long and too narrow for the merchant to find it to his interest to navigate it with ships. The plan may appear advantageous to the speculating statesman; but to those who have been educated to estimate profit and loss, the items, in an undertaking of this kind, would leave the balance on the wrong page.

To make free remarks, either on the present commerce 159 future trade of any place, often excites the feelings of those whose interests may be, in some measure, connected with its prosperity or decline. Such observations, however, never have any influence upon those who wish to enter into business. Commercial men, more than any others, think and act for themselves; and when left to themselves, under a system of laws and regulations that are fixed and permanent, they set down under them without even wishing a change. The frequent change of commercial regulations in the United States has perhaps been the source of more wild speculation, and of a greater number of bankruptcies, than all other causes combined. These changes have held the mercantile community in suspense; and alterations and amendments in our revenue laws are so frequent, that from year to year the inquiry is reiterated, “what is Congress going to do on this subject?” Such has been the result of my own observations, from an extensive and practical acquaintance with the subject of trade.

Albany contains many public edifices. Those that are erected for the use of the state are built on a hill that rises from the river, with a gradual ascent, for a mile. These buildings are sufficiently spacious for the purposes for which they are intended, but they are not distinguished for particular elegance or beauty.

From the top of the state-house, a fine view of the 160 287714 L of C-36 Lot-J Yrs city and the surrounding country is exhibited, and the river, with its bordering villages, may be seen for many miles.

List 6420

The city of Albany has a population of fifteen thousand people. They are principally of Dutch and English extraction, and in their manners and character, exceeded by few citizens in the world.

I embarked on board the steam-boat Chancellor Livingston, and in eighteen hours the vessel was safely moored along side the wharf in the city of New-York. In passing down the river, many fine towns on its banks may be seen. Few of them are, however, in a flourishing condition. The facility of passing up and down the North River, has of late taken much of the trade of the interior of the country directly to New-York, without its passing through the hands of the merchants that live along the river; from this the towns between Albany and New-York will never become as opulent as their first founders may have anticipated.